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ABSTRACT

The bulletin provides data on New Mexico's population. Information is given on population size, distribution, and composition; topography and climate; urban and rural population changes; racial and ethnic characteristics; age and sex composition; fertility and mortality; population mobility; nativity; income; marital status; and education. A brief historical background is also given. Population changes are examined for their effects on political representation and influence, economic and industrial activity, education, welfare, social life, and other spheres of activity in New Mexico. Data range from 1900 to 1970. (NQ)

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HIGHLIGHTS

Topography and climate strongly influenced the early settlement of New Mexico and the subsequent distribution of the population within the state. In recent decades, however, extensive improvement in agricultural technology and rapid urbanization have tended to alter the effect of these influences.

Economic development in New Mexico, viewed historically, did not proceed rapidly until railroad and communication facilities were completed to join the territory with the rest of the nation. The validation of land titles and the increased availability of agricultural lands through the extension of both irrigation and dry farming accelerated the economic progress. More recently, the development of potash, oil and gas, and uranium resources has stimulated the state's economy, as have federal governmental programs and the ever-growing tourist industry. As the economy expanded, the state's population has grown.

When the Population Grew

This population growth has been rapid most of the time since New Mexico became a part of the United States. The greatest proportional growth in any decade occurred between 1900 and 1910, due primarily to a large net in-migration of people attracted by an over-optimistic promotion of dry farming. The rate of population increase slowed during the second and third decades, but in the 1930s, New Mexico again saw a rapid proportional population increase, an increase which continued until the 1960s.

During the 1960s, the rate of population growth dropped sharply, so that the population increased only 6.8 percent. This represents an increase of only 64,977 inhabitants compared with an increase of 269,836 between 1950 and 1960. Even so, the population of the state had passed the million mark when the federal census was taken April 1, 1970.

The low rate of population increase during the 1960s was primarily due to a net out-migration from the state. To some degree, it was also due to smaller natural increase in the 1960s than in the 1950s. During the 1950s, the net in-migration amounted to slightly over 20,000 people, but during the 1960s, approximately 130,000 more people left New Mexico than came in. Without this loss and with a natural increase as high as it was in

the 1950s, the population of New Mexico would have increased 22.7 percent between 1960 and 1970 instead of 6.8 percent.

Where New Mexicans Live

Fifteen of New Mexico's counties gained population between 1960 and 1970. Seventeen counties had a population loss. Practically all of the counties which gained population had a relatively low net out-migration. The counties which lost population almost all had high net out-migrations.

New Mexico is sparsely populated in terms of land area. Within the state, the population is unevenly distributed. The population density varies widely from county to county. In general, the more densely populated counties are concentrated in the southeastern and northern or northwestern portions of the state. The more sparsely populated counties form a contiguous area stretching diagonally across the state from the southwestern corner to the northeastern corner.

Changes Call for Adjustments

Major changes occurred in the distribution of the population in New Mexico between 1960 and 1970 because of population gains in some counties and losses in other counties. Changes in the distribution of the state's population during the last 40 years have been even more extensive. Twenty-one of the 31 counties in existence in 1930 gained population and 10 lost population. The large differentials in population changes in the counties during the 40-year period were the cumulative effect of differences in birth, death, and net migration rates. These changes occurred as people adjusted to their environment and to each other. The resulting distribution of the population in turn has created new political, social, and economic problems which will require further readjustment.

More Urban Than Rural

More than two-thirds of New Mexico's population live in places classified as urban by the Bureau of the Census. The state remained rural longer than did the United States as a whole, but by 1970, the proportion of the total population living in urban areas in New Mexico had increased to 69.8 percent, only slightly below the national percentage of 73.5 percent.

Urbanization in New Mexico was particularly rapid in the 1950s. During that decade, the proportion of urban people in the total population increased 15.7 percent, nearly three times as high a rate of increase as that for the United States. In the 1960s, the population movement into urban areas took place at a much slower rate, only 3.9 percent.

The urban-rural distribution of the population of New Mexico in 1970 varied considerably from county to county. Nine counties had no urban population; in six counties, less than half of the popu-

lation was urban; of the 17 counties with over half of the population urban, 10 had urban population percentages above the state average.

In 1950, the federal census for the first time showed a numerical as well as a percentage decline in the rural population. The numerical decline has continued since. The rural population loss, however, was not uniform throughout New Mexico. Twenty-three counties lost rural population in the 1960s, but the other nine counties had increases, some of which were quite substantial. In some of those counties, the increase no doubt was due to people moving from urban centers.

The rural-nonfarm population doubled to 267,808 between 1920 and 1970, but the rural-farm population decreased sharply to 37,487 in 1970, less than one-fourth of what it was in 1920. The proportion of both rural-nonfarm and rural-farm populations in New Mexico's total population declined between 1920 and 1970. The decline for the rural-nonfarm population was from 37.4 to 26.4 percent and for the rural-farm population from 33.3 to 3.7 percent.

Racial and Ethnic Groups

Whites constitute the major racial group in New Mexico (90.1 percent). Indians are the largest nonwhite racial group (7.2 percent). In addition, there is a small proportion of Negroes (1.9 percent), and a very small proportion of people of other races (0.8 percent).

Of the Indians in the state, 61.7 percent live in McKinley and San Juan counties, and nearly all of the remainder live in seven other counties. Indians constitute a large proportion of the populations in Sandoval, McKinley, and San Juan counties.

The majority of Negroes also live in a few counties. Seven counties have 88.5 percent of the total, but in none of these does the Negro population form a large percentage of the total population.

Spanish-Americans constitute a large segment of New Mexico's poplation and live in all of the state's counties, although most of them are concentrated in a few counties. Bernalillo, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, and Valencia counties in the north and Dona Ana County in the south have 58.4 percent of this ethnic group. In 18 counties they constitute a majority of the population.

Age and Sex

New Mexico has a relatively young population. The median age is much lower than that for the United States as a whole. The differential increased between 1890 and 1970, but due to the sharp decline in New Mexico's birth rate in the 1960s, the difference has become smaller. The median age of males has not varied greatly over the years. Historically, the median age of females has been considerably lower than that of males in New Mexico, but beginning with 1930 the difference gradually decreased and in 1960, for the first time, the

median age of females was higher than that of males.

The number of males per 100 females in New Mexico in the past has been much greater than for the United States, but the difference has gradually decreased. In both instances, the number of males per 100 females consistently decreased so that in 1950 it fell below 100 in the United States, a point reached in New Mexico in 1970.

The age and sex composition of the urban population closely resembles that of the total state population, which is to be expected since the state is predominantly urban. The urban and rural populations, however, differ in age and sex composition. Differences also exist between the rural-nonfarm and rural-farm populations. Between 1960 and 1970, New Mexico showed a trend toward an older population. Compared with the United States in 1970, New Mexico had a much younger population, and the difference applied to both sexes.

Population Vitality Changing

The vitality of New Mexico's population, measured by indexes of fertility and mortality, has changed. Until 1947, the crude birth rate was much higher in New Mexico than in the United States as a whole, but then the differential began to decrease as the rate in New Mexico started a continuous decline, which was especially sharp in the 1960s. New Mexico's fertility ratio was also high compared with that of the United States, but it too dropped considerably in the 1960s, a drop no doubt due to the sharp decline in the crude birth rate in that decade. Nevertheless, the state's fertility ratio is still high with a resulting high potential for future population growth.

New Mexico has made great progress in reducing mortality. The crude death rate in the state has been declining more rapidly than the national rate and in 1940 dropped below the national rate, with an increasing differential taking place since then. Tremendous progress has also been made in the reduction of the infant mortality rate. The rate differential between New Mexico and the United States has steadily decreased so that the rate in New Mexico now is almost as low as that for the United States.

On the Move

Population mobility, now an accepted fact in the American way of life, is even more characteristic of New Mexico's population than of the nation's population as a whole. The state's urban population is more mobile than its rural population. Between different economic areas, mobility varies considerably.

New Mexico's population is preponderantly native born, the percentage of foreign born being only 2.2 percent of the total population. Comparatively speaking, a large proportion of New Mexicans are relative newcomers to the state. Two out of every five native-born persons living in New Mexico in 1970 were born in some other state; for the United

States as a whole, only one out of every four were. In general, counties with a high percentage of people born in New Mexico are those with a large proportion of Indians and those in the northern part of the state with a large proportion of Spanish-Americans, although there are exceptions.

Family Incomes Need Improving

New Mexico income data for 1969 on median family income, the percentage of families with incomes below the poverty level, and the percentage of families with income of $15,000 or more show that New Mexicans as a group do not occupy a very favorable position. The state ranked thirty-eighth among the 50 states in terms of median family income; 18.5 percent of New Mexico families were below the poverty level, compared with 10.7 percent for the nation; and as for families with income of $15,000 or more, the state is considerably below the national average. For all three income categories, the rural population was in a less favorable position than the urban population, and minority groups fell much below the rest of the state's population. There was a wide variation between counties for all three categories.

Marital Status Not Unusual

On the whole, the marital status of the population of New Mexico does not differ greatly from that of the national population. And differences between the urban and rural segments of the population are small.

Educational Status Rising

A comparison of 1960 and 1970 data on the years of school completed by persons 25 years old and over and on the median years of school completed shows that New Mexico is making some progress. Such progress applies to both whites and nonwhites, but much still remains to be done to raise the educational status of nonwhites to a satisfactory level.

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the people of new mexico

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Social, economic, and political problems are "people" problems, and understanding them requires a factual knowledge of the population, its trends and characteristics. These are vitally related to the stability of social life and the efficiency of social institutions.

This is true in any state, but especially in a tri-cultural state like New Mexico, with its Anglo-American, Spanish-American, and Indian populations. California and Texas each have many more Spanish-Americans than does New Mexico, but the percentage of New Mexico's total population in that ethnic group is more than twice as large as that in any state. Similarly, Arizona, California, and Oklahoma each have more Indians, but New Mexico has the largest percentage of Indians in the total population of any state.

Changes in the size, distribution, and composition of a population affect political representation and influence, economic and industrial activity, education, welfare, and many other spheres of activity. Without sufficient knowledge of such changes, it is difficult to plan adequately at the state level and at county and municipal levels as well.

The general purpose of this bulletin is to make readily available a useful body of data relating to the size, distribution, and composition of New Mexico's population. It should provide information to the general public interested in current population data and to individuals and groups concerned with political, economic, and social aspects of life in the state.

Most of the numerical data and some of the percentages have been obtained from published reports of the Bureau of the Census. The greatest portion of the percentages shown have been computed by the author. Sources other than reports of the Bureau of the Census are footnoted.

*Dr. Johansen died June 18, 1973.

Topography and Climate

The land area of New Mexico is 121,412 square miles, the state being approximately square in outline. It is traversed near the middle, from north to south, by the Rio Grande. The topography has been described briefly as follows:

> The State presents a wide variation in surface relief, such as stream valleys, flat-bottomed drainless basins, comparatively level plains, undulating to rolling plateaus, mesas, detached high ridges, and mountain ranges and mountainous areas, together with their associated foothills and intermountain valleys.[1]

Elevations range from 2,850 feet in the southeastern corner to 13,300 feet in the north-central part. This range in altitude, as well as the surface relief, is closely associated with the climate of the state. Outstanding climatic features are an abundance of sunshine, very little cloudy weather, wide variations in the length of the growing seasons, low humidity, and scant precipitation.[2]

The climate of New Mexico has strongly influenced the development of its agriculture. Ranching has been dependent upon sufficient annual precipitation to maintain satisfactory range conditions. Farming not carried on under irrigation has been done by dry-farming methods under a normal seasonal precipitation varying from approximately 9 to 16 inches in the state's eight climatic divisions (see figure 1). Generally speaking, the growing season is longer in the lower altitudes than at higher elevations. Only a few crops are adapted to the nonirrigated areas because of insufficient moisture. In the surface-water valleys and in other areas where water is obtained primarily from wells, many more crops, more varied in type, can be grown.

The topography and climate of New Mexico determined her agriculture in the early days of settlement and so influenced the distribution of her population. Only a limited number of crops could be grown, and the early colonists were restricted in their agricultural pursuits largely to areas where some form of irrigation was possible. This explains why early Spanish colonization was limited to narrow ribbons of settlements in the river valleys. Subsequent settlement and distribution of the population similarly were influenced by the topographical and climatic features.

Developments in recent decades have tended to alter the effect of topography and climate on the distribution of the population in New Mexico. For example, the tremendous improvement in agricultural technology has greatly reduced the manpower necessary to carry on agriculture. At the same time, rapid urbanization has taken place. The two are closely related, but together or separately they have been powerful forces in the redistribution of the population in New Mexico.

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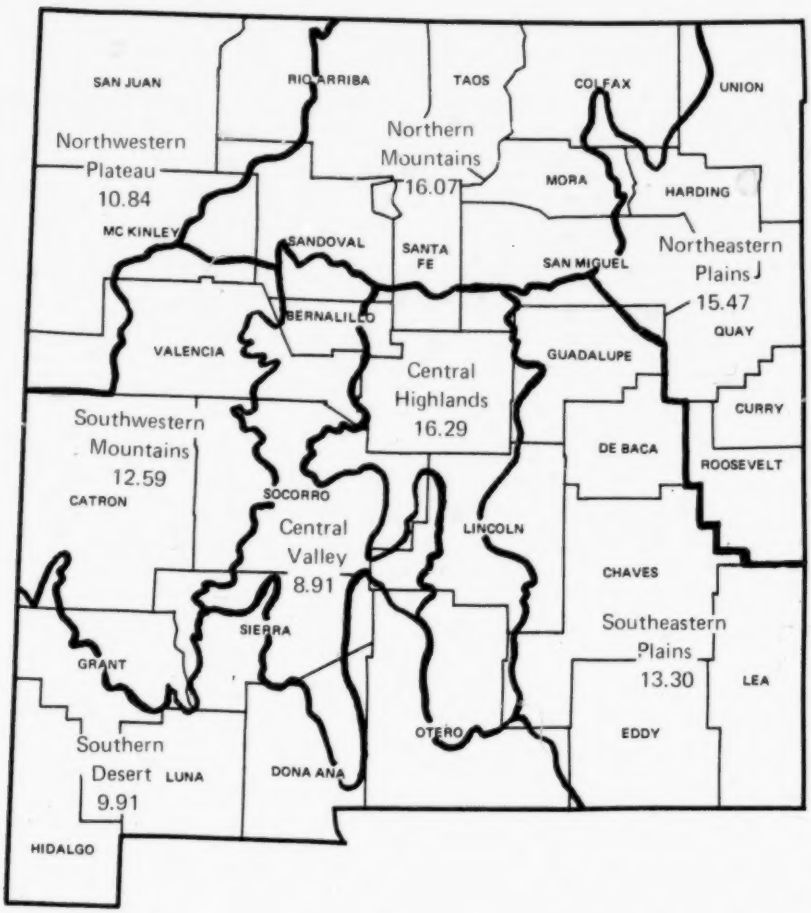
[1] Byron Hunter, P.W. Cockerill, and Hazen B. Pingrey, *Types of Farming and Ranching Areas in New Mexico*, New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 261, 1939, p. 18.

[2] *Ibid.*, pp. 18-19.

Fig. 1. Annual precipitation averages (in inches) for New Mexico's eight climatic divisions, 1931 to 1960*



*The averages are from *Decennial Census of United States Climate–Monthly Averages for State Climatic Divisions: New Mexico*, 1930-1960, Climatography of the United States No. 85-25, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1963. The divisional delineations on the map were copied from a map furnished the author by Frank E. Houghton, New Mexico State Climatologist.

Historical Background

Discovery and Settlement. New Mexico has a long and varied history which has left its mark on her population.

When the Spaniards first came to what is now New Mexico over 400 years ago, they found people whose ancestors probably had been living in the area for over 600 years. Archaeological research indicates that over a thousand years ago the Pueblo culture was well developed in the Southwest. Large and impressive ruins of many of these communities still remain.[3]

Reports of the existence of people to the north and their wealth led to the expedition of Francisco Vasquez de Coronado in 1540. For 40 years after that expedition, the Spaniards showed no interest in the Pueblo country. Then, toward the end of the sixteenth century, they renewed their interest. In 1598, Juan de Onate took a group of colonists to northern New Mexico where, after a temporary sojourn at San Juan, they eventually settled at San Gabriel. Onate's entrance into New Mexico marked the first permanent establishment of European culture with a new language and new institutional forms.

Political History. New Mexico stayed under Spanish rule until Mexico received her independence from Spain in 1821, except for a period of 12 years from 1680 to 1692, when a Pueblo Indian uprising drove out virtually all of the Spaniards.

For a quarter of a century after Mexico achieved her independence from Spain, New Mexico was a part of Mexico. Under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, ratified on May 30, 1848, New Mexico became a part of the United States and two years later became a territory of the United States under the provisions of the Compromise Bill of 1850.[6] Statehood was achieved in 1912.

Economic Development. The period spent under Spanish rule was characterized by little economic progress. Pastoralism and subsistence agriculture were the predominant forms of economic activity. With the coming of Mexican independence, however, significant development took place. Avenues of trade with the United States were opened, and the trade facilities across the plains freed the citizens of New Mexico from the oppressive monopoly which the merchants of Chihuahua had exercised. This trade developed rapidly and increased still further after the American occupation in 1846.[7] The opening and development of trade routes brought a westward movement of settlers into New Mexico and they changed

[3]Lansing B. Bloom and Thomas C. Donnelly, *New Mexico History and Civics*, The University Press, Albuquerque, N.M., 1933, p. 43.

[4]*Ibid.*, pp. 20-31.

[5]*Ibid.*, pp. 91-96.

[6]Ralph E. Twitchell, *Leading Facts of New Mexico History*, Vol, II. The Torch Press, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 1911, pp. 265-277.

[7]L. Bradford Prince, *A Concise History of New Mexico*, The Torch Press, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 1914, pp. 167-168.

the racial and ethnic composition of the population.

Economic development proceeded fairly rapidly in some localities but for the state as a whole was relatively slow until railroads were built. In 1878, the Santa Fe Railroad reached the northern border of New Mexico. During the next two years, this line advanced south into the Rio Grande Valley, and in 1881 connections were made with the Southern Pacific at Deming. Approximately a decade later, railroads were extended into the eastern part of New Mexico.[8]

Communication facilities with the outside were improved in 1875, when the military telegraph line which had been completed from Fort Leavenworth to Santa Fe in 1869 was extended south to Mesilla, then west to Tucson in 1876, and on to San Diego in 1877. This meant that New Mexico had telegraphic facilities for communication with both sides of the continent.[9]

Important to the economic progress of New Mexico after it became a part of the United States was the validating of land titles and making available agricultural lands which were unoccupied. Almost immediately after occupation by the United States, land began to be surveyed. Land offices were opened and the sale of public lands was begun after the Civil War. In 1891 a Court of Private Land Claims was established by Congress and continued in existence until June 30, 1904. Until recently, it was assumed that this court settled all land-grant titles in the Southwest.[10] This assumption has been questioned in recent years, at least in New Mexico. Nevertheless, the work of the court at the turn of the century increased immigration and improved economic opportunities.

Agricultural expansion in New Mexico was stimulated by improved transportation and water development, expansion taking place in both irrigation and dry-land agriculture, but particularly in areas where irrigation water was most readily available. This development has been referred to as follows:

> The land area irrigated increased from approximately 204,000 acres in 1900 to over 500,000 acres in 1930. During that period, the Carlsbad Reclamation project and much of the Roswell-Artesia district were developed. The Elephant Butte Dam was completed in 1915, and during the years which immediately followed, the agriculture of the Mesilla and Rincon Valleys was greatly extended and stabilized. The development of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District is the most important extension of irrigation farming that has taken place within the State during recent years. The construction work on that project started in 1928. Nonirrigation farming began about 1900 in the north-central part of the State at elevations above 6000 feet and in

[8] Lansing B. Bloom and Thomas C. Donnelly, *op. cit.*, p. 213.

[9] John H. Vaughan, *History and Government of New Mexico*, published by the author, State College, N.M., 1926, p. 186.

[10] L. Bradford Prince, *op. cit.*, pp. 208-209.

the east-central and the northeastern portions just prior to and following the passage of the 320-acre homestead act of 1909.[11]

As a result of the extension of trade to and from the East, the construction of transportation and communication facilities, the validation of land titles, and the increased development of agriculture, conditions became more favorable to population growth. The beginning of the twentieth century saw a rapid increase in population numbers.

Later developments contributed to an expanding economy which in turn supported continued population growth in New Mexico. The acreage under irrigation increased rapidly, as did the acreage devoted to dry-land farming. By 1970, the irrigated cropland in the state amounted to over 1.25 million acres, and the dry cropland was nearly 1.5 million acres.[12]

Increased development of other natural resources also took place in the potash, oil and gas, and uranium industries. The tourist industry has had its favorable economic impact. Federal governmental programs during and after World War II, however, have been the major stimuli to the economy. These and many other economic factors have made possible continued, although erratic, population growth in New Mexico.

GROWTH OF THE POPULATION

Early Growth. Population growth was rather slow in New Mexico up to the time of Mexican independence. No reliable estimates concerning early population numbers and growth are available. Historical sources indicate that the Pueblo Indians increased but slightly in number. The Spanish population, on the other hand, nearly doubled during the last years under Spanish rule. Figures for the period under Mexican rule are not available, but population growth must have been rapid for most of the period, since the total population in New Mexico had increased by 60,000 by the middle of the century, three decades after the Spanish rule had ended.[13]

Population Growth Since 1850. New Mexico's rapid population growth while it was under Mexican rule continued during most of the decades after it became a part of the United States. There have been only three decades when the growth was relatively low compared to the growth in the other decades. The three decades were 1860 to 1870, 1910 to 1920, and 1960 to 1970 (see table 1).

[11]Byron Hunter, P.W. Cockerill, and Hazen B. Pingrey, *op. cit.*, p. 11.

[12]Robert R. Lansford, "Planted Cropland Acreage in New Mexico in 1970 and 1971," *New Mexico Agriculture - 1971*, Agricultural Experiment Station Research Report 235, New Mexico State University, 1972, pp. 34-37.

[13]Ralph E. Twitchell, *op., cit.*, Vol. I, pp. 473-474.

Table 1. New Mexico's population growth, 1850 to 1970*

Census Year	Population	Increase Over Preceding Census	
		Number	Percent
1850	61,547**	--	--
1860	87,034**	25,487	41.4
1870	91,874	4,840	5.6
1880	119,565	27,691	30.1
1890	160,282	40,717	34.1
1900	195,310	35,028	21.9
1910	327,301	131,991	67.6
1920	360,350	33,049	10.1
1930	423,317	62,967	17.5
1940	531,818	108,501	25.6
1950	681,187	149,369	28.1
1960	951,023	269,836	39.6
1970	1,016,000	64,977	6.8

*Data for 1850-1960 are from Final Report PC(1)-33A, *Number of Inhabitants: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1960, p. 5; data for 1970 are from Advance Report PC(VI)-33 Revised, *Final Population Counts: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 3.

**Total for 1860 is exclusive of the population of the area taken to form a part of Colorado

**Total for 1860 9

**Total for 1860 is exclusive of the population of the area taken to form a part of Colorado Territory in 1861 and of the population of the area organized as a part of the Territory of Arizona in 1863. No estimate of the population in 1850 is available for the territory acquired from Mexico through the Gadsden Purchase (1853) and annexed to New Mexico in 1854.

New Mexico's population growth since 1912 has been much more rapid than that of the United States as a whole (figure 2).[14]

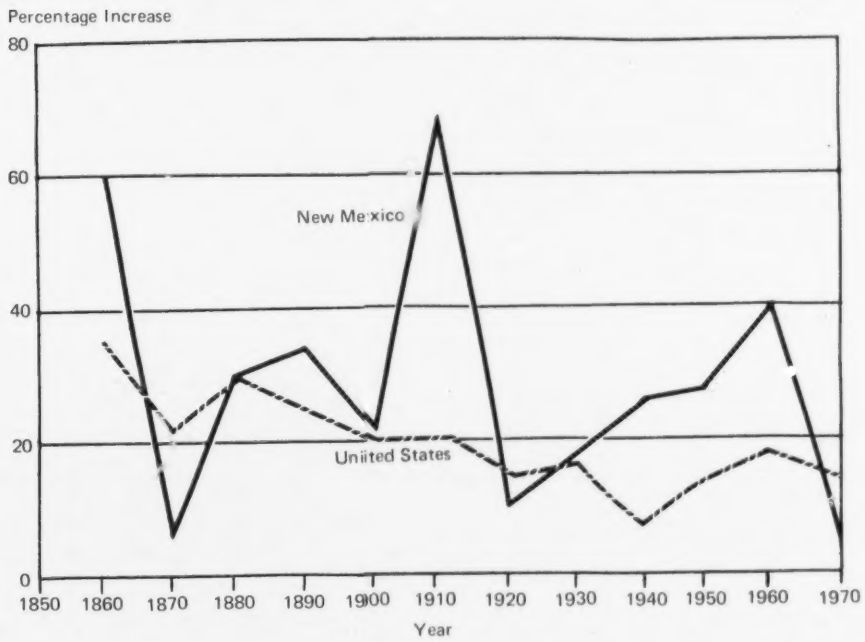
The greatest percentage increase in New Mexico's population in any decade occurred between 1900 and 1910. The numerical increase in that decade was also greater than in any decade of the state's history until the 1940s and the 1950s. More people came to New Mexico from other states during that decade than had come during the 1890s, while the migration from New Mexico to other states did not increase in the same proportion.

The origin and destination of interstate native-white migrants entering and leaving New Mexico from 1890 to 1900 and from 1900 to 1910 are shown on the maps in figure 3.[15] These native-white

[14]Decennial rates of change are percentages computed on the basis of changes in population growth since the preceding census.

[15]All persons born in continental United States or in any of its outlying territories or possessions and to American citizens abroad and at seas have consistently been classified as "native born" by the Bureau of the Census. See footnote 28 for the definition of "white" used by the Bureau of the Census.

Fig. 2. Decennial percentage increase in population, New Mexico and the United States, 1850 to 1970



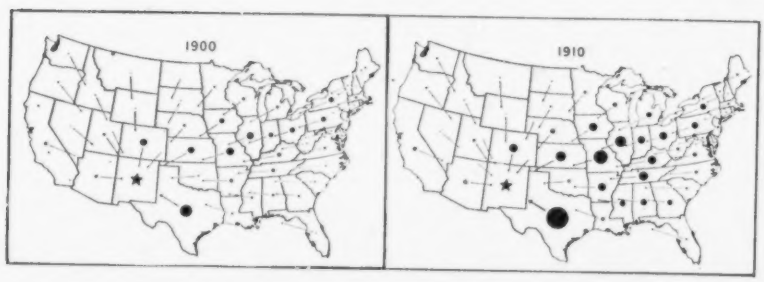
migrants constituted by far the greatest portion of the total native interstate migrants. However, change from one decade to the next should be interpreted in the light of earlier trends in order that the cumulative effect may be taken into account.

A number of factors seem to have contributed to the large increase in migration to New Mexico from other states during the first decade of this century. Besides the validation of land titles and the development of transportation facilities, one factor undoubtedly was increased stability in the economic life of the territory in the last remaining years before statehood. Another factor was that the precipitation over most of the territory from 1904 to 1907 averaged considerably higher than normal. There was a keen interest in dry farming at that time, and ignorance of the cyclical nature of climatic fluctuations encouraged many people to take up farming in areas that were marginal from the standpoint of climate. Several years of drought ensued, and many of those who had recently settled in New Mexico left about 1911 or 1912.

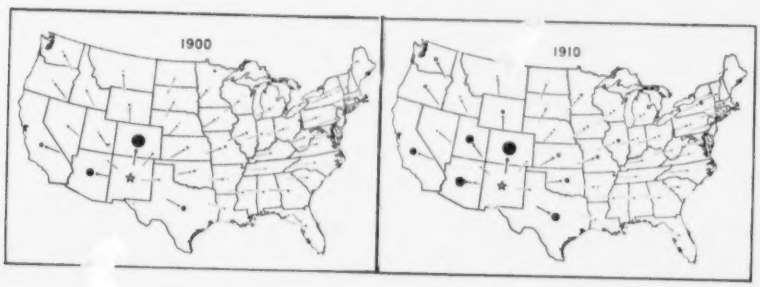
During the second and third decades of the century, the population of New Mexico did not increase as rapidly as it had in previous decades.

Fig. 3 Migration of native-born whites to and from New Mexico, 1890 to 1900 and 1900 to 1910*

Migrants into New Mexico from state of birth



Migrants born in New Mexico living elsewhere



*C.J. Galpin and T.B. Manny, *Interstate Migration among the Native White Population as Indicated by Differences between State of Birth and State of Residence*, Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1934, pp. 92-93.

With the 1930s, the state again saw a rapid percentage increase, which continued until the 1960s. The total population and decennial population increases for each decade since 1850 are shown in figure 4.

Population Growth Between 1960 and 1970. After 30 years of rapid population growth in New Mexico, the rate of growth declined drastically during the 1960s. From 1930 to 1940, New Mexico's population increased more than three times as rapidly as did the population of the country as a whole; from 1940 to 1950 and from 1950 to 1960, the increase was almost twice as rapid. Now the situation has been reversed. Between 1960 and 1970, the population of the United States increased 13.3 percent, but the population of New Mexico increased only 6.8 percent, approximately half the rate of increase for the nation.

New Mexico's relatively low rate of population growth during the 1960s was not typical of other western states (see table 2). Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, and Utah in the Mountain Division all had substantially larger percentage increases

Fig. 4. Total population and decennial population increases, New Mexico, 1850 to 1970

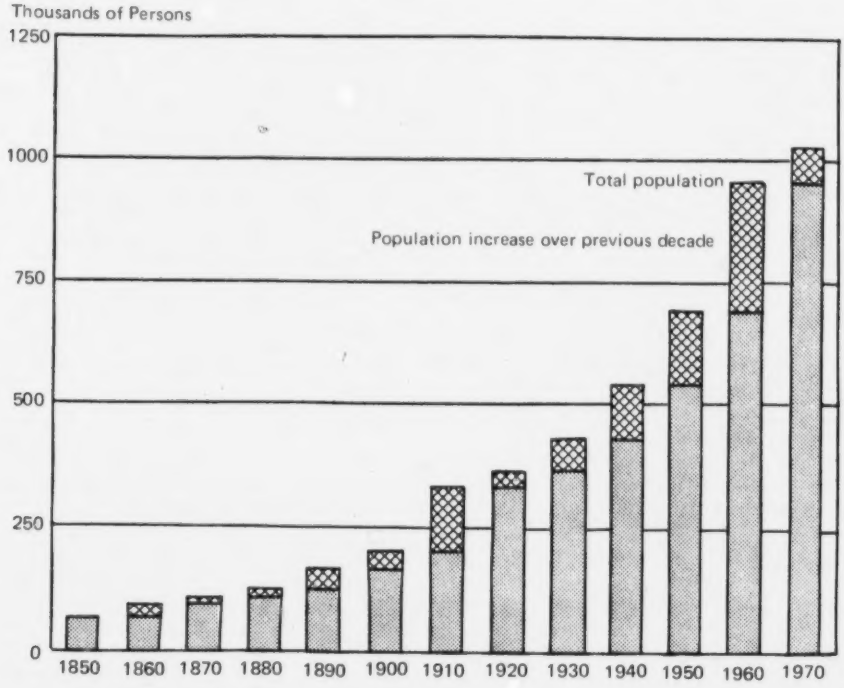


Table 2. New Mexico's relative rate of population growth, 1960 to 1970*

Area	Number		Increase	
	1970	1960	Number	Percent
United States	203,211,926	179,323,175	23,888,751	13.3
Western Region	34,804,193	28,053,104	6,751,089	24.1
Mountain Division	8,281,562	6,855,060	1,426,502	20.8
Montana	694,409	674,767	19,642	2.9
Idaho	712,567	667,191	45,376	6.8
Wyoming	332,416	330,066	2,350	0.7
Colorado	2,207,259	1,753,947	453,312	25.8
NEW MEXICO	1,016,000	951,023	64,977	6.8
Arizona	1,770,000	1,302,161	468,739	36.0
Utah	1,059,273	390,627	168,646	18.9
Nevada	488,738	285,278	203,460	71.3

*Final Report PC(1)-1A, *Number of Inhabitants: United States Summary*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, pp. 48-50.

than did New Mexico. Texas also had a higher rate of increase (16.9 percent). The only adjoining state with a growth somewhat similar to New Mexico is Oklahoma, with an increase of 9.9 percent.

The differential rate of growth between New Mexico and its adjoining states raises the question of reasons for the relatively low rate of growth in the state.

The population of a political unit can increase only by 1) the addition of new territory, 2) natural increase (surplus of births over deaths), and 3) net in-migration. Since the boundaries of New Mexico did not change, any explanation for the drastic decline in New Mexico's rate of population growth in the 1960s has to be found in natural increase, interstate migration, or both.

Part of the decline can be attributed to a decline in the rate of natural increase (the surplus of births over deaths per 1,000 population). It dropped from 31.9 during the 1950s to 20.4 during the 1960s. If the rate for the 1950s had prevailed, the natural increase in the 1960s would have amounted to over 300,000 persons. Instead, it was only an estimated 194,668 persons—262,808 births less 68,140 deaths. This was about 22,000 below the natural increase in the 1950s.[16]

[16]The decline in the natural increase and the net out-migration reported in this bulletin are greater than those reported in New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station Research Report 191. The variance is due to a greater number of births in the 1960s as reported in a more recent source than the sources used for the above-mentioned report. The more recent source, and the one used for this bulletin in determining the natural increase and net migration in New Mexico in the 1960s, is Current Population Reports, *Preliminary Intercensal Estimates of States and Components of Population Change*, 1960 to 1970, Series P-25, No. 460, Bureau of the Census, June 7, 1971, p. 10.

The decrease was primarily due to a sharp drop in the crude birth rate (number of births per 1,000 population), because the crude death rate (number of deaths per 1,000 population) remained relatively constant.[17]

Even if the natural increase in the 1960s had been as high as in the 1950s, the additional 22,000 persons would have added only 2.3 percent to the population growth rate of 6.8 percent reported by the Bureau of the Census. This percentage increase would not have brought the rate of growth for the state up to what could have been expected in the light of the rates for the previous two decades and the growth in other states in the Southwest.

The natural increase in the 1960s, however, was much larger than the total population increase, and the difference between the two is the net out-migration, 129,691 persons. This is the equivalent of 13.6 percent of the total population in 1960. This net loss from out-migration is in startling contrast to the situation in the 1950s, when 7.7 percent of the total population increase was due to net in-migration.[18] In other words, the percentage loss of population in New Mexico in the 1960s due to a net out-migration was nearly twice as large as the percentage increase in population in the 1950s due to a net in-migration.

It is not possible to pinpoint the causes for the large population movement away from New Mexico in the 1960s, but the economic situation was probably a major influence. It can be assumed that the economic setbacks resulting from declines in the potash and oil industries in the state led to movement away from the areas of concentration of these industries. The curtailment of military installations, especially the closing of the Walker Air Force Base, had the same result. Some of the people leaving the areas of former booming economic activity no doubt settled elsewhere in New Mexico. However, the general economic picture in the state in the latter part of the decade validates the assumption that the population movement resulting from economic setbacks in specific areas would have been out of the state. The same economic factors probably also slowed down normal migration into New Mexico so that the net out-migration was probably larger than it would have been otherwise.

Whatever the reasons for the large net out-migration, the decline of 13.6 percent in the rate of population growth due to that movement and the 2.3 percent decline attributed to a lower natural increase together constitute 15.9 percent. Thus, if this decline had not taken place, the percentage increase in the 1960s would have been 15.9 percent greater than the 6.8 percent reported by the Bureau of the Census. This would have made the increase for the state a total of 22.7 percent,

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[17] The crude birth rate in the 1950s varied from a low of 34.1 to a high of 35.9. In the 1960s it declined from 35.8 in 1959 to a provisional rate of 21.5 in 1970.

[18] Current Population Reports, *Preliminary Estimates of the Components of Population Change, by State, 1950 to 1960*, Series P-25, No. 227, Bureau of the Census, April 26, 1962, p. 6.

which would have been more like the growth in the other adjoining states.

County Population Changes. Of New Mexico's counties, 15 gained population and 17 lost population between 1960 and 1970 (table 3). The gains ranged from 1.7 percent in Roosevelt County to 23.2 percent in Sandoval County. The losses ranged from 1.5 percent in San Juan

Table 3. Population change, by county, New Mexico, 1960 to 1970*

County	1970 Population	Change, 1960 to 1970	
		Number	Percent
The State	1,016,000	64,977	6.8
Bernalillo	315,774	53,575	20.4
Catron	2,198	-575	-20.7
Chaves	43,335	-14,314	-24.8
Colfax	12,170	-1,636	-11.8
Curry	39,517	6,826	20.9
De Baca	2,547	-444	-14.8
Dona Ana	69,773	9,825	16.4
Eddy	41,119	-9,664	-19.0
Grant	22,030	3,330	17.8
Guadalupe	4,969	-641	-11.4
Harding	1,348	-526	-28.1
Hidalgo	4,734	-227	-4.6
Lea	49,554	-3,875	-7.3
Lincoln	7,560	-184	-2.4
Los Alamos	15,198	2,161	16.6
Luna	11,706	1,867	19.0
McKinley	43,208	5,999	16.1
Mora	4,673	-1,355	-22.5
Otero	41,097	4,121	11.1
Quay	10,903	-1,376	-11.2
Rio Arriba	25,170	977	4.0
Roosevelt	16,479	281	1.7
Sandoval	17,492	3,291	23.2
San Juan	52,517	-789	-1.5
San Miguel	21,951	-1,517	-6.5
Santa Fe	53,756	8,786	19.5
Sierra	7,189	780	12.2
Socorro	9,763	-405	-4.0
Taos	17,516	1,582	9.9
Torrance	5,290	-1,207	-18.6
Union	4,925	-1,143	-18.8
Valencia	40,539	1,454	3.7

*Advance Report PC(VI)-33, (Revised) *Final Population Counts: New Mexico,* U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 3.

County to 28.1 percent in Harding County. The percentage change for each county in the state is shown in table 3.

The counties which gained population between 1960 and 1970 lie in three areas. These are Curry and Roosevelt counties, eight counties in the northwestern portion of the state, and five counties in the southwestern portion. Of those 15 counties, eight continued an established trend, since they all showed substantial rates of increase in the previous three decades. These counties are Bernalillo, Curry, Dona Ana, Luna, McKinley, Otero, Santa Fe, and Valencia. In Sandoval County, the increase which began between 1950 and 1960 continued, after the county had lost population between 1940 and 1950. Five counties increased after a loss in the 1950s—Grant, Rio Arriba, Roosevelt, Sierra, and Taos. Los Alamos County continued to increase as it has since it was established in the 1940s.

Much of the loss between 1960 and 1970 occurred in eastern New Mexico, although three counties on the western border also lost population (figure 5). Curry and Roosevelt are the only eastern counties which gained population, and the Roosevelt County gain was minimal.

The population loss in the northeastern portion of New Mexico is a continuation of a trend that has been evident over several decades. Colfax and Harding counties lost population for the fourth consecutive decade. Losing population for the third consecutive decade were De Baca, Guadalupe, Mora, Torrance, and Union counties. Quay County lost population for the second consecutive decade. San Miguel did not lose population between 1950 and 1960 but did between 1940 and 1950.

Outside the northeastern portion of the state, Catron County lost population for the third consecutive decade. Hidalgo County lost for the second decade, and Lincoln and Socorro lost population in the decade of the 1960s after gaining in the 1950s but losing in the 1940s.

The curtailment of military installations and the decline of the potash and oil industries certainly affected the populations in Chaves, Eddy, and Lea counties, all of which suffered a substantial loss during the 1960s. San Juan County also lost population in the 1960s, but the loss was only 1.5 percent, and between 1950 and 1960 the population there increased 191.4 percent. The tremendous upsurge in oil and gas drilling activities in the 1950s and the leveling off of these activities in the 1960s are no doubt the most logical single explanation for the fact that the county showed no population growth in the 1960s.

Population changes in New Mexico counties between 1960 and 1970, like the change for the state as a whole, were due to natural increase and net migration (table 4). Practically all counties which gained population had a relatively low net out-migration. Sierra, Grant, and Bernalillo counties even had net in-migrations. Counties which lost population almost without exception had high net out-migrations.

Fig. 5. Gains and losses in population, by county, 1960 to 1970

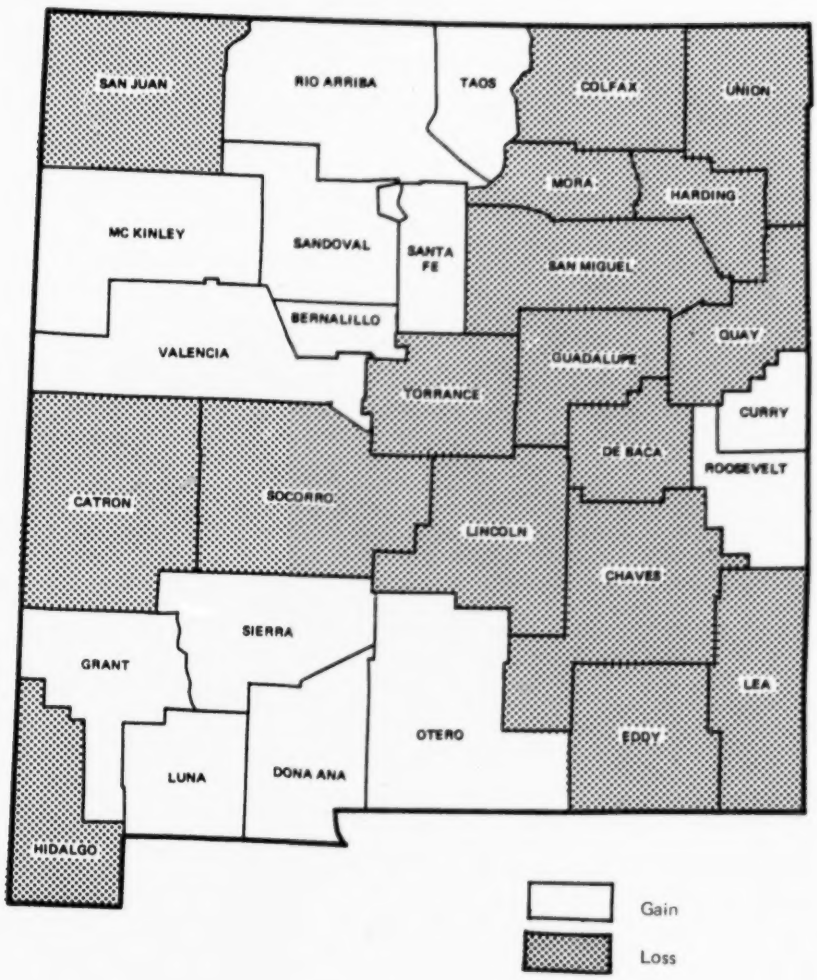


Table 4. Components of population change, by county, New Mexico, 1960 to 1970*

County	Percentage Change, 1960 to 1970*		
	Change in the total population	Change due to	
		Natural increase	Net migration
The State	6.8	20.4	-13.6
Bernalillo	20.4	20.4	**
Catron	-20.7	10.6	-31.3
Chaves	-24.8	20.1	-44.9
Colfax	-11.8	11.6	-23.4
Curry	20.9	23.3	-2.4
De Baca	-14.8	6.3	-21.1
Dona Ana	16.4	24.6	-8.2
Eddy	-19.0	16.3	-35.3
Grant	17.8	16.5	1.3
Guadalupe	-11.4	18.0	-29.4
Harding	-28.1	7.9	-36.0
Hidalgo	-4.6	19.1	-23.7
Lea	-7.3	15.3	-22.6
Lincoln	-2.4	12.7	-15.1
Los Alamos	16.6	18.1	-1.5
Luna	19.0	21.6	-2.6
McKinley	16.1	36.1	-20.0
Mora	-22.5	15.8	-38.3
Otero	11.1	22.1	-11.0
Quay	-11.2	12.1	-23.3
Rio Arriba	4.0	25.7	-21.7
Roosevelt	1.7	12.9	-11.2
Sandoval	23.2	25.1	-1.9
San Juan	-1.5	24.9	-26.4
San Miguel	-6.5	17.4	-23.9
Santa Fe	19.5	22.2	-2.7
Sierra	12.2	-3.2	15.4
Socorro	-4.0	21.9	-25.9
Taos	9.9	20.8	-10.9
Torrance	-18.6	14.1	-32.7
Union	-18.8	8.1	-26.9
Valencia	3.7	20.3	-16.6

*Current Population Reports, *Components of Population Change by County: 1960 to 1970*, Series P-25, No. 460, Bureau of the Census, June 28, 1971, pp. 44-45.

**Less than 0.05 percent.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION

For a long period of New Mexico history, the distribution of her population was primarily determined by the location of potential agricultural resources. With the improvement of agricultural technology and the increasing emphasis on non-agricultural economic activities, far-reaching changes have taken place. People have tended to move from already sparsely populated areas to the major urban centers.

These changes raise questions as to whether the population is large enough in some areas to make possible a satisfactory functioning of the community life. Is the population of a given area great enough to justify schools which will be adequate to meet desired educational needs? Is the number of people in the community large enough for the proper support of religious institutions? Is efficient local government possible in the light of the density and distribution of the population? Can an adequate recreational program be carried out? These are questions of environmental quality. They can be answered best with the aid of knowledge concerning the distribution of the population.

Population Density in New Mexico. New Mexico is certainly sparsely populated compared with many other states and with the United States as a whole.[19] In 1970

[19]In the United States, population density is measured in terms of the number of persons per square mile.

Table 5. New Mexico's relative population density, 1970*

Area	Land Area in Square Miles, 1970	Population	Persons per Square Mile
United States	3,536,855	203,211,926	57.5
Western Region	1,748,019	34,804,193	19.9
Mountain Division	856,047	8,281,562	9.7
Montana	145,587	694,409	4.8
Idaho	82,677	712,567	8.6
Wyoming	97,203	332,416	3.4
Colorado	103,766	2,207,259	21.3
NEW MEXICO	121,412	1,016,000	8.4
Arizona	113,417	1,770,900	15.6
Utah	82,096	1,059,273	12.9
Nevada	109,889	488,738	4.4

*Final Report PC(1)-1A, *Number of Inhabitants: United States Summary*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 52.

the population density for the state was 8.4 as compared to a density of 57.5 for the United States. Table 5 shows New Mexico's density compared to that of the Western Region and the Mountain Division, of which New Mexico is a part.

Population density figures have to be used with care; the population in one county may be clustered, and in another, more or less evenly distributed. Nevertheless, density figures indicate the distribution of the population of a state, even if only on a county basis.

The data in table 6 show that New Mexico counties varied widely in population density in 1970. Figure 6 shows that, in general, the more densely populated counties are concentrated in two areas of the state, and that the most sparsely populated counties form a contiguous area stretching diagonally across the state from the southwestern corner to the northeastern corner.

Percentage Distribution of the Total Population. Another way of looking at the distribution of New Mexico's population within the state is to see what proportion of the total population is located in each county. Figure 7 shows such a proportional distribution.

The advantage of this approach is that it emphasizes the size of a county's population without reference to its land area. It shows which counties are most important in terms of numbers of people. Bernalillo and Dona Ana counties had 37.9 percent of the state's population in 1970, whereas Catron, De Baca, Guadalupe, Harding, Hidalgo, Mora, and Union together had only 2.5 percent of the total population. In terms of land area, Bernalillo and Dona Ana had only 4.1 percent of the total, and the seven counties each with less than 5,000 persons covered 19.4 percent of the state's land area. Similar comparison can be made for other counties.

Changes in the Distribution of New Mexico's Population. Population distribution is changed by the cumulative effect of differences in birth, death, and net migration rates. These changes occur as people adjust to their environment and to each other. Such adjustment brings about a redistribution of the population and establishes the pattern of distribution at a given time.

Major changes in the distribution of the population occurred in New Mexico between 1960 and 1970 (table 3), but many of these changes represent a continuation, more or less, of population shifts that began much earlier. Table 7 shows county changes from 1930 to 1970.[20]

For those 40 years, the numerical increase for the state was 592,683, which amounted to an increase of 140 percent. Without the population

[20]No analysis has been attempted for the decades prior to 1930 because the 1930 census was the first after present county lines had been established, except for the creation of Los Alamos County in 1949 from parts of Sandoval (15 square miles). There is no record of any population residing in the area included in the new county at the time of its creation. Other changes in county areas since 1930 have been so small they have had no effect on county population data.

Table 6. Land area and population density, by county, New Mexico, 1970*

County	1970 Land Area in Square Miles	Persons per Square Mile
The State	121,412	8.4
Bernalillo	1,169	270.1
Catron	6,897	0.3
Chaves	6,084	7.1
Colfax	3,764	3.2
Curry	1,403	28.2
De Baca	2,356	1.1
Dona Ana	3,804	18.3
Eddy	4,167	9.9
Grant	3,970	5.5
Guadalupe	2,998	1.7
Harding	2,134	0.6
Hidalgo	3,447	1.4
Lea	4,393	11.3
Lincoln	4,855	1.6
Los Alamos	108	140.7
Luna	2,957	4.0
McKinley	5,454	7.9
Mora	1,940	2.4
Otero	6,638	6.2
Quay	2,875	3.8
Rio Arriba	5,843	4.3
Roosevelt	2,454	6.7
Sandoval	3,714	4.7
San Juan	5,500	9.5
San Miguel	4,741	4.6
Santa Fe	1,902	28.3
Sierra	4,166	1.7
Socorro	6,603	1.5
Taos	2,256	7.8
Torrance	3,346	1.6
Union	3,816	1.3
Valencia	5,656	7.2

*The data for 1970 are taken from PC(1)-A33, *Number of Inhabitants: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 13.

Fig. 6. Persons per square mile in New Mexico, by counties, 1970

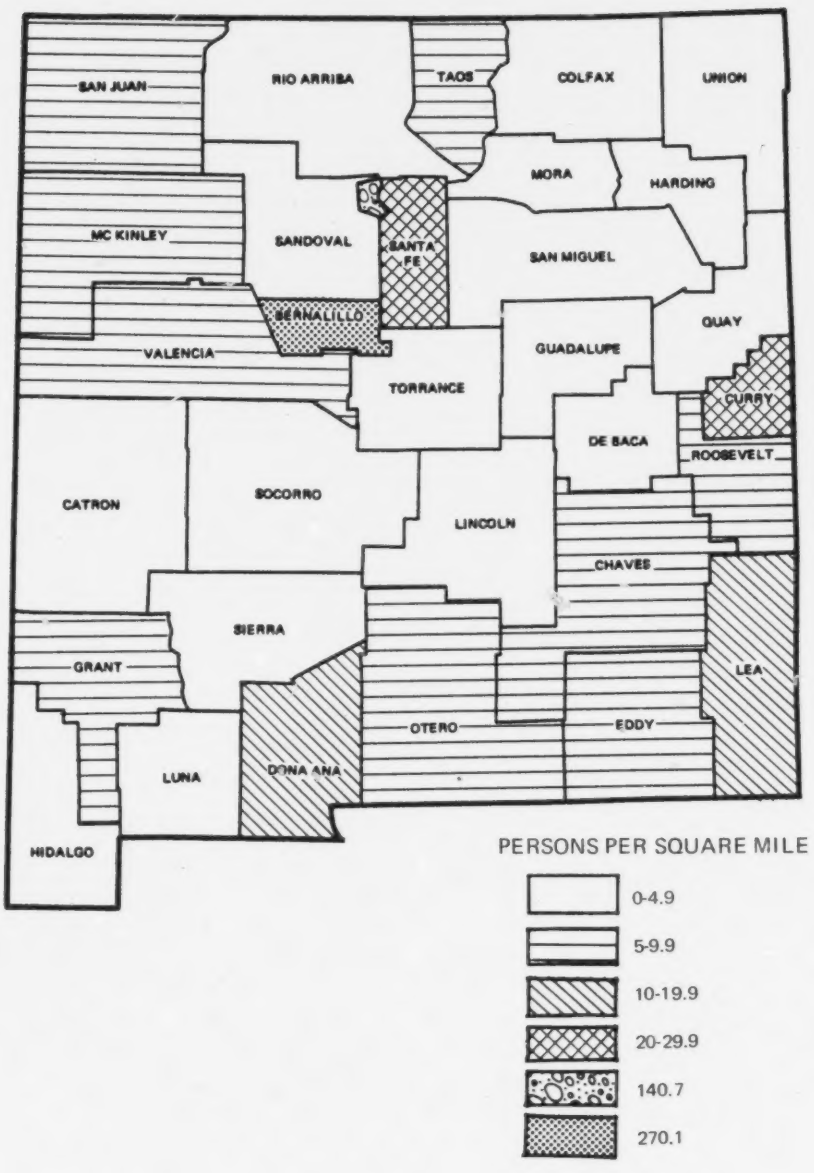


Fig. 7. Percentage distribution of the total population, by specified county populations, New Mexico, 1970

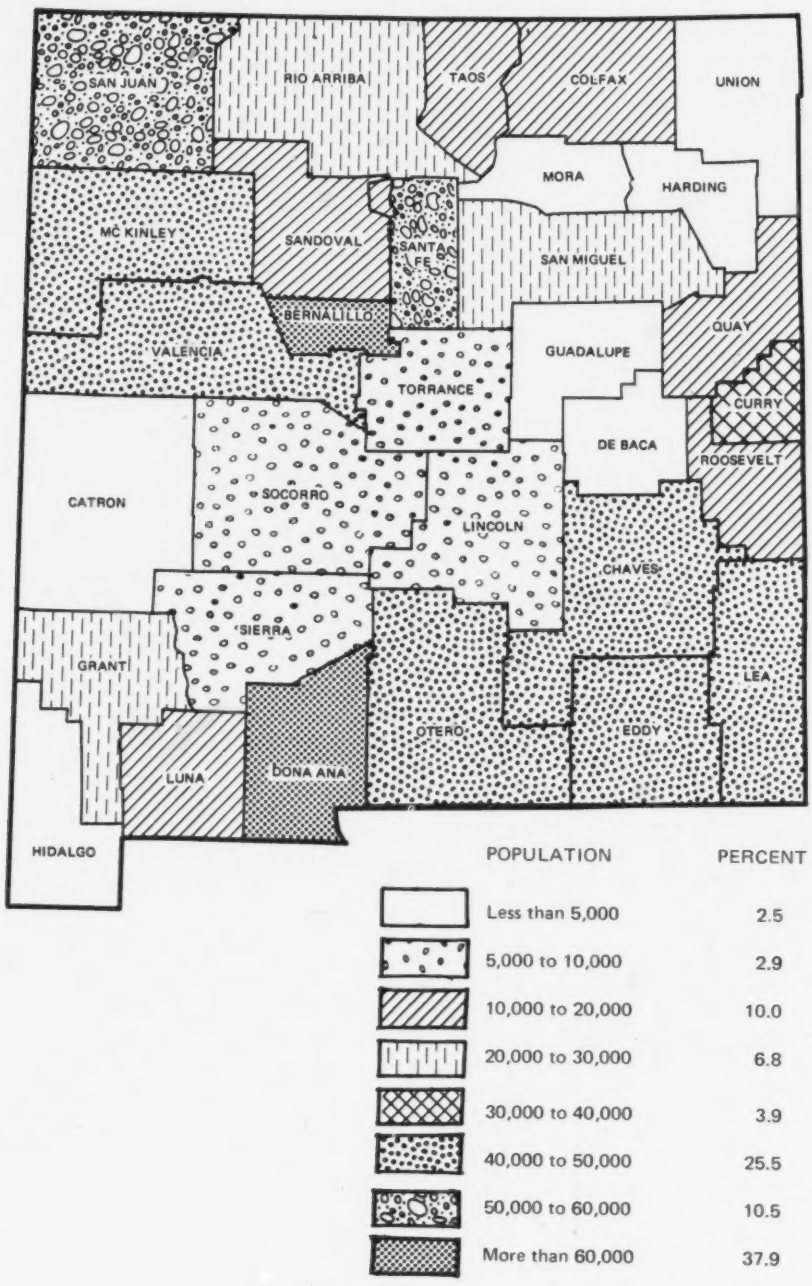


Table 7. Population gains and losses, by county, New Mexico 1930 to 1970

County	Population*		Change, 1930 to 1970	
	1970	1930	Number	Percent
The State	1,016,000	423,317	592,683	140.0
Bernalillo	315,774	45,430	270,344	595.1
Catron	2,198	3,282	-1,084	-33.0
Chaves	43,335	19,549	23,786	121.7
Colfax	12,170	19,157	-6,987	-36.5
Curry	39,517	15,809	23,708	150.0
De Baca	2,547	2,893	-346	-12.0
Dona Ana	69,773	27,455	42,318	154.1
Eddy	41,119	15,842	25,277	159.6
Grant	22,030	19,050	2,980	15.6
Guadalupe	4,969	7,027	-2,058	-29.3
Harding	1,348	4,421	-3,073	-69.5
Hidalgo	4,734	5,023	-289	-5.8
Lea	49,554	6,144	43,410	706.5
Lincoln	7,560	7,198	362	5.0
Los Alamos	15,198	**	**	**
Luna	11,706	6,247	5,459	87.4
McKinley	43,208	20,643	22,565	109.3
Mora	4,673	10,322	-5,649	-54.7
Otero	41,097	9,779	31,318	320.3
Quay	10,903	10,828	75	0.7
Rio Arriba	25,170	21,381	3,789	17.7
Roosevelt	16,479	11,109	5,370	48.3
Sandoval	17,492	11,144	6,348	57.0
San Juan	52,517	14,701	37,816	257.2
San Miguel	21,951	23,636	-1,685	-7.1
Santa Fe	53,756	19,567	34,189	174.7
Sierra	7,189	5,184	2,005	38.7
Socorro	9,763	9,611	152	1.6
Taos	17,516	14,394	3,122	21.7
Torrance	5,290	9,269	-3,979	-42.9
Union	4,925	11,036	-6,111	-55.4
Valencia	40,539	16,186	24,353	150.5

*The numerical data for 1930 are from the Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930, Vol. I, *Number and Distribution of Inhabitants*, pp. 730-431; those for 1970 are from PC(1)-A33, *Number of Inhabitants: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 13.

**Los Alamos did not exist in 1930.

of Los Alamos County, which had not been established in 1930, the increase would have been 136.4 percent. Over the four decades, the population of the United States increased 64.9 percent.

Twenty-one of the 31 counties in existence in 1930 gained population and 10 lost population between 1930 and 1970. The rates of change from county to county varied tremendously during the four decades. The county rates of change within selected ranges are shown in figure 8.

Among the 21 counties that gained population, the rates of gain ranged from 0.7 percent in Quay County to 706.5 percent in Lea County. In some of these counties, the percentage of increase over the 40-year period was very small—far below the rate for the state as a whole. In nine counties, it was greater than the rate for the state, and four of these gained population at rates far above the state average. These were Bernalillo, 595.1 percent; Lea, 706.5 percent; Otero, 320.3 percent; and San Juan, 257.2 percent.

Population losses during the four decades ranged from 5.8 percent in Hidalgo County to 69.5 percent in Harding County. In Union and Mora, the percentage of loss was almost as great as that in Harding. Eight of the 10 counties which lost population in the four decades are in the northeastern portion of New Mexico. Of these, five have no urban population.[21] The other two counties with population loss during the period are Catron and Hidalgo counties. Catron County has no urban population.

While some counties gained and others lost population between 1930 and 1970, the rates of change were not uniform from decade to decade.

Eight counties gained population in all four decades—Bernalillo, Curry, Dona Ana, Luna, McKinley, Otero, Santa Fe, and Valencia. Their numerical increase of 454,254 was an increase of 281.9 percent for the 40-year period, twice the percentage for New Mexico as a whole.

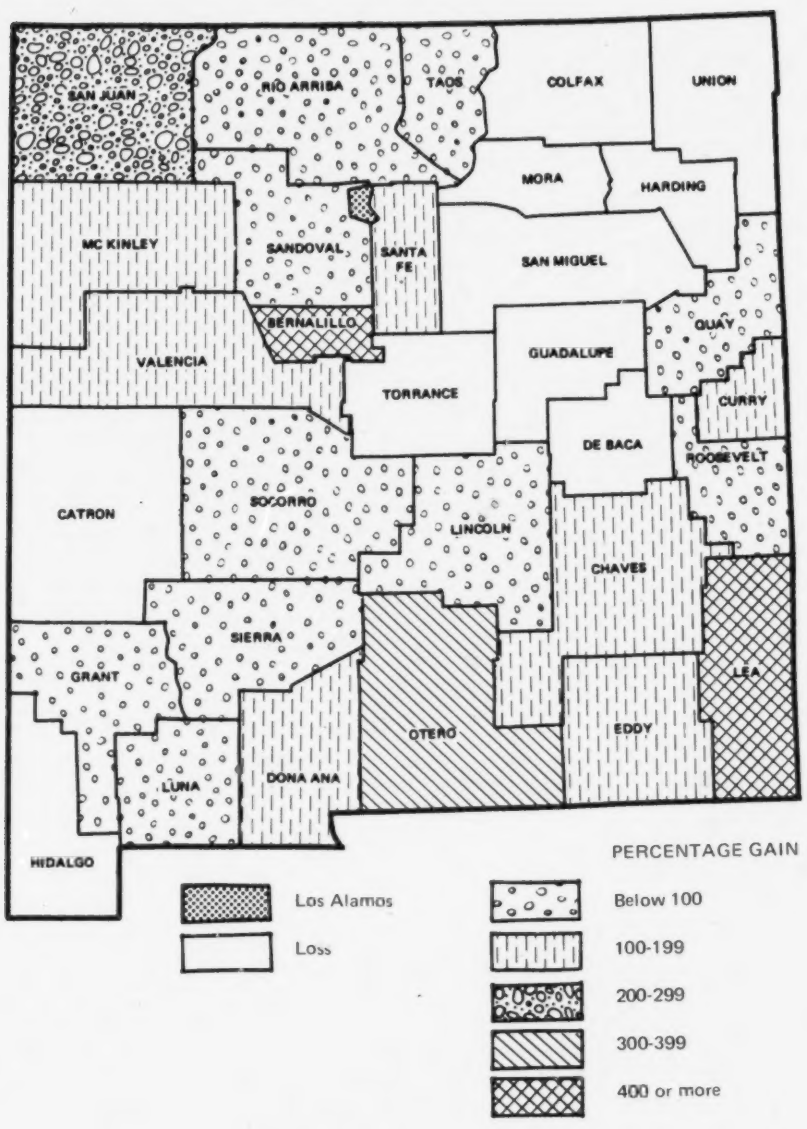
Four counties—Chaves, Eddy, Lea, and San Juan—gained population in the first three decades but not in the 1960s. Their numerical increase was 130,289, or 231.7 percent. If these four counties had not lost population between 1960 and 1970, their rate of increase in the four decades would have been 282.6 percent—almost the same as that for the eight counties with increases in each of the four decades.

The other nine of the 21 counties with population gains between 1930 and 1970—Grant, Lincoln, Quay, Rio Arriba, Roosevelt, Sandoval, Sierra, Socorro, and Taos—did not contribute much numerically to the state population. Together, they gained only 24,203 persons, a 22.2 percent increase. This low rate of increase was related to population losses in either one or two of the four decades. Four of these counties lost population in one of the four decades, and the other five lost population in two of these decades, though not necessarily in the same decades.

Decennial rates of change indicate that in the 10 counties which

[21] See page 33 for a definition of "urban".

Fig. 8. Percentage change in county population, 1930 to 1970



lost population between 1930 and 1970–Catron, Colfax, De Baca, Guadalupe, Harding, Hidalgo, Mora, San Miguel, Torrance, and Union–the loss for the most part was characteristic of the three decades prior to 1970. As a whole, the loss in the 10 counties amounted to 31,261 persons, a 32.5 percent decrease.

The large differentials in population changes in New Mexico's counties between 1930 and 1970 have had a tremendous effect on the distribution of the population within the state (table 8).

Bernalillo County, which in 1930 had approximately one-tenth of all the people in New Mexico, by 1970 had almost three out of every 10 people in the state. The proportion of the total population in the state also increased significantly in Lea, Otero, and San Juan counties. In most of the other counties that gained population between 1930 and 1970, the proportion of the state's population did not change greatly. However, some counties had considerably smaller proportions of the state's total population in 1970 than in 1930, even though they gained population during the 40 years. This is because their rates of increase were low compared with the state as a whole. Most notable of such counties were Grant and Rio Arriba.

The 10 counties which lost population between 1930 and 1970 naturally had a much smaller proportion of the total population in New Mexico in 1970 than in 1930, in view of the increase in the other counties in the state. Together, the 10 counties had 22.7 percent of the state's population in 1930 but only 6.4 percent in 1970. Except for Colfax and San Miguel counties, the 10 counties were among those with small populations.

Significance of the Changes. The changes in the population distribution between 1930 and 1970 have had significant political, economic, and social consequences.

Politically, for example, the presence of almost three-tenths of New Mexico's population in Bernalillo County in 1970 compared with slightly over one-tenth of that population in 1930 has greatly increased the county's political representation in the Legislature and its influence in the politics of the state in general. On the other hand, the loss of population in the northeastern portion of New Mexico has lessened the representation and influence of that area. Population redistribution has had similar political impact in other areas of the state.

The increased concentration of the population in the larger municipalities and the counties in which they are located no doubt has come about, in a large measure, as the result of an expanding economy which attracted people from other areas in New Mexico and from outside the state. Such concentration, in turn, has called for the expansion of existing economic services, thus attracting even more people. For example, the population of Clovis increased 20.2 percent between 1960 and 1970, but the number of people employed in that city in utilities and sanitary services increased 76.2 percent; in eating and drinking

Table 8. Distribution of New Mexico's population, by county, 1970 and 1930

County	1970		1930	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
The State	1,016,000	100.0	423,317	100.0
Bernalillo	315,774	31.1	45,430	10.7
Catron	2,198	0.2	3,282	0.8
Chaves	43,335	4.3	19,549	4.6
Colfax	12,170	1.2	19,157	4.5
Curry	39,517	3.9	15,809	3.7
De Baca	2,547	0.2	2,893	0.7
Dona Ana	69,773	6.9	27,455	6.5
Eddy	41,119	4.0	15,842	3.7
Grant	22,030	2.2	19,050	4.5
Guadalupe	4,969	0.5	7,027	1.7
Harding	1,348	0.1	4,421	1.0
Hidalgo	4,734	0.5	5,023	1.2
Lea	49,554	4.9	6,144	1.5
Lincoln	7,560	0.7	7,198	1.7
Los Alamos	15,198	1.5	*	*
Luna	11,706	1.1	6,247	1.5
McKinley	43,208	4.2	20,643	4.9
Mora	4,673	0.5	10,322	2.4
Otero	41,097	4.0	9,779	2.3
Quay	10,903	1.1	10,828	2.6
Rio Arriba	25,170	2.5	21,381	5.1
Roosevelt	16,479	1.6	11,109	2.6
Sandoval	17,492	1.7	11,144	2.6
San Juan	52,517	5.2	14,701	3.5
San Miguel	21,951	2.2	23,636	5.6
Santa Fe	53,756	5.3	19,567	4.6
Sierra	7,189	0.7	5,148	1.2
Socorro	9,763	1.0	9,611	2.3
Taos	17,516	1.7	14,394	3.4
Torrance	5,290	0.5	9,269	2.2
Union	4,925	0.5	11,036	2.6
Valencia	40,539	4.0	16,186	3.8

*Los Alamos did not exist in 1930.

places, 78.5 percent; and in entertainment and recreation, 140.5 percent.

The growth of urban centers due to an expanding economy, whether in the form of new industrial activity or the expansion of existing economic service, has tended to increase tax revenue for those centers, giving better financial support for needed

public services. Conversely, in the areas with declining populations, the economy has suffered, and the resulting decline in tax revenue has made it difficult to provide the public services necessary to a well-balanced community life.

Fully as important as the political and economic effects of the changes in the distribution of the state population are the social effects. The counties with the larger population centers are more able to provide adequate public services like education, welfare, medical, dental, and hospital services. Culturally, they tend to become the focus of musical, dramatic, and literary activities in the state. The opposite frequently has become the situation in the more sparsely populated areas where population loss has occurred. People have to go outside the community for many public services. Similarly, many cultural organizations can no longer function at a successful level because the population base is not large enough.

URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION CHANGES

When power lines and improved roads began to reach rural areas, people said that the differences between city and country living were being erased. But more and more people moved to the cities, and other differences arose. The implications of urbanization and depopulation of rural areas became evident.

Urbanization brings the urban life-style to an increasing proportion of the population. It increases the political influence of urban centers. With urbanization come problems of housing, sanitation, transportation, law enforcement, and recreation.

On the other side of the coin, urbanization means that rurality as a way of life remains significant for relatively fewer people. It diminishes the political power of rural areas. Rural depopulation intensifies already existing problems with local government, law enforcement, health and medical services, rural education, economic services, and other institutional services.

New Mexico has no amulet that protects her from these problems of changing population distribution. The particular set of problems in any area is related to whether the population is increasing or decreasing and to whether it is urban or rural.

Definition of Urban and Rural. According to the definition used by the Bureau of the Census for the 1970 census, the urban population comprises all persons living in urbanized areas and in places with 2,500 or more inhabitants outside urbanized areas. An urbanized area consists of a central city, or cities, and surrounding closely settled territory. The population not classified as urban constitutes the rural population.[22]

This definition of urban is essentially the same as that adopted by

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22Final Report PC(1)-A33, *Number of Inhabitants: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, pp. iv and vii.

the Bureau of the Census for the first time in 1950 and also used in 1960. Therefore, urban and rural data are comparable for 1950, 1960, and 1970. Before 1950, the urban population was defined simply as those persons living in incorporated places of 2,500 or more inhabitants.

While the figure 2,500 may no longer be as valid a criterion for distinguishing between urban and rural populations as it has been in the past, it is the one that is being used for the most part by the Bureau of the Census. In states with large populations and several large population centers, the concept of the standard metropolitan statistical area is perhaps more useful. However, Albuquerque is the only such area designated in New Mexico, and the area consists of all of Bernalillo County. Obviously, some other criterion has to be used in New Mexico, and the 2,500 population criterion seems most practical.

The Changing Urban-Rural Population Distribution in New Mexico. New Mexico definitely has become urban (see table 9). More than two-thirds of the population in 1970

Table 9. Urban and rural population of New Mexico, 1850 to 1970†

Year	Population			Percent of Total	
	Total	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
1850	61,547	4,539	57,008	7.4	92.6
1860	87,034*	4,635*	82,399*	5.3	94.7
1870	91,874	4,765	87,109	5.2	94.8
1880	119,565	6,635	112,930	5.5	94.5
1890	160,282	9,970	150,312	6.2	93.8
1900	195,310	27,381	167,929	14.0	86.0
1910	327,301	46,571	280,730	14.2	85.8
1920	360,350	64,960	295,390	18.0	82.0
1930	423,317	106,816	316,501	25.2	74.8
1940	531,818	176,401	355,417	33.2	66.8
1950**	681,187	341,889	339,298	50.2	49.8
1960**	951,023	626,479***	324,544	65.9	34.1
1970**	1,016,000	708,775***	307,225	69.8	30.2

†Data for 1850-1960 are from Final Report PC(1)-33A, *Number of Inhabitants: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1960, p. 5; data for 1970 are from Advance Report PC(VI)-33 Revised, *Final Population Counts: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 3.

*Data for 1860 are exclusive of the population of the area taken to form a part of Colorado Territory in 1861 and of the population of the area organized as a part of the Territory of Arizona in 1863. No estimate of the population in 1850 is available for the territory acquired from Mexico through the Gadsden Purchase (1853) and annexed to New Mexico in 1854.

**Current urban definition.

***Includes the population of a delineated urbanized area in Bernalillo County outside the city of Albuquerque. The population of that area was 40,027 in 1960 and 18,323 in 1970. There was no urbanized area delineated for Albuquerque for the 1950 Census.

was classified as urban by the federal census bureau. Urbanization, however, was slower in New Mexico than in the United States as a whole.

In 1920, the federal census for the first time showed over half the total population of the United States as urban. Since then, urbanization in the nation has continued at a rapid pace. According to the 1970 census, 73.5 percent of the total national population is urban.

On the basis of the pre-1950 definition of urban, New Mexico was first classified as urban in the 1960 census. According to the definition of urban which was first used in the 1950 census, New Mexico just barely had become an urban state in 1950. By 1970, the proportion of the total population living in urban areas had increased to 69.8 percent. The rapid urbanization during the last three decades has brought the state's urban population up to a proportion not far below that for the United States (see figure 9).

The numbers of urban and rural people in New Mexico from 1850 to 1970 are shown graphically in figure 10.

1970 Urban and Rural Population. The 1970 urban-rural population distribution varied considerably by

Fig. 9. Urbanization in New Mexico and the United States, 1850 to 1970

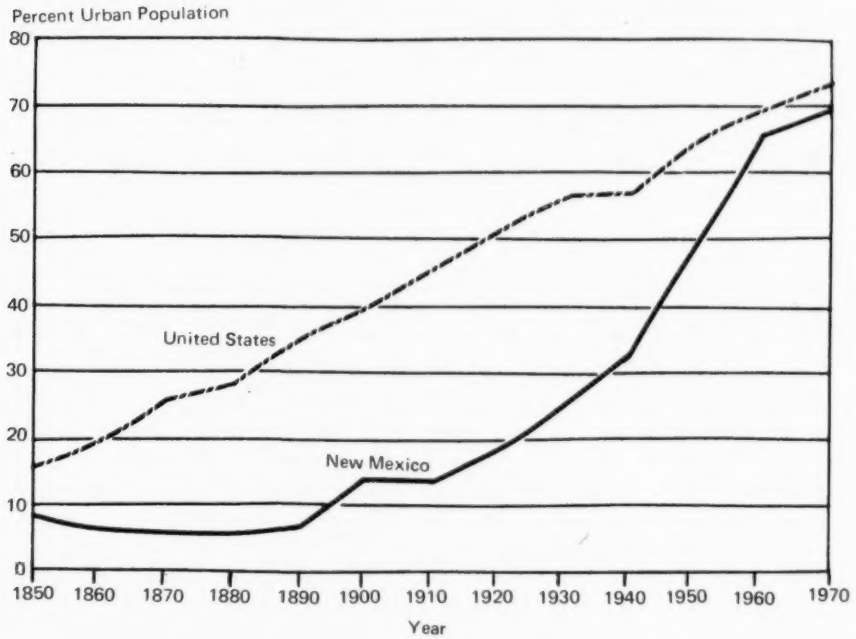
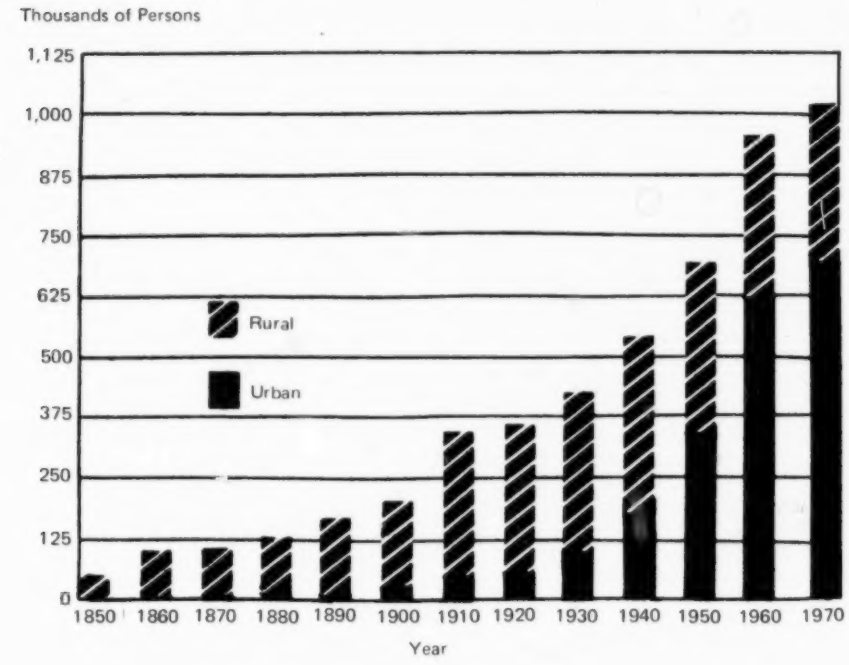


Fig. 10. Urban and rural populations, New Mexico, 1850 to 1970



counties (table 10). Nine counties had no urban population. In six other counties, less than half the population was urban, the lowest proportion being 15.5 percent in Rio Arriba County. In the 17 counties with over half the population urban, 10 had percentages above the state average of 69.8 percent, Los Alamos having the highest, 99.8 percent.

Percentages, however, are sometimes misleading. A county with a relatively high percentage of urban people in its total population may contribute relatively little to the urban population of the state because the total county population is small. For example, Hidalgo County was 72.4 percent urban in 1970 but had only 3,429 urban inhabitants. On the other hand, Eddy County was 76.9 percent urban, approximately the same percentage as Hidalgo County, but it had 31,612 urban inhabitants.

A better picture of the importance of the urban population in the counties relative to the total population in New Mexico will be ob-

Table 10. Urban and rural population, by county, New Mexico, 1970*

County	Total Population	Urban		Rural	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
The State	1,016,000	708,775	69.8	307,225	30.2
Bernalillo	315,774	297,451	94.2	18,323	5.8
Catron	2,198	0	0	2,198	100.0
Chaves	43,335	33,908	78.2	9,427	21.8
Colfax	12,170	6,962	57.2	5,208	42.8
Curry	39,517	33,956	85.9	5,561	14.1
De Baca	2,547	0	0	2,547	100.0
Dona Ana	69,773	46,189	66.2	23,584	33.8
Eddy	41,119	31,612	76.9	9,507	23.1
Grant	22,030	10,659	48.4	11,371	51.6
Guadalupe	4,969	0	0	4,969	100.0
Harding	1,348	0	0	1,348	100.0
Hidalgo	4,734	3,429	72.4	1,305	27.6
Lea	49,554	40,183	81.1	9,371	18.9
Lincoln	7,560	0	0	7,560	100.0
Los Alamos	15,198	15,171	99.8	27	.2
Luna	11,706	8,343	71.3	3,363	28.7
McKinley	43,208	18,554	42.9	24,654	57.1
Mora	4,673	0	0	4,673	100.0
Otero	41,097	33,887	82.5	7,210	17.5
Quay	10,903	7,189	65.9	3,714	34.1
Rio Arriba	25,170	3,902	15.5	21,268	84.5
Roosevelt	16,479	10,554	64.0	5,925	36.0
Sandoval	17,492	0	0	17,492	100.0
San Juan	52,517	25,333	48.2	27,184	51.8
San Miguel	21,951	13,835	63.0	8,116	37.0
Santa Fe	53,756	41,793	77.7	11,963	22.3
Sierra	7,189	4,656	64.8	2,533	35.2
Socorro	9,763	4,687	48.0	5,076	52.0
Taos	17,516	0	0	17,516	100.0
Torrance	5,290	0	0	5,290	100.0
Union	4,925	2,931	59.5	1,994	40.5
Valencia	40,539	13,591	33.5	26,948	66.5

*Advance Report PC(VI)-33 Revised, *Final Population Counts: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 3.

tained by looking at what percentage of the total urban population in the state is located in a given county (see table 11).

Of the 23 counties with urban populations in 1970, the percentage which each had of the state's urban population varied from 42.0 percent in Bernalillo County to 0.4 percent in Union County. Four

Table 11. Distribution of New Mexico's urban population, by county, 1970

County	Urban Population	
	Number	Percent
The State	708,775	100.0
Bernalillo	297,451	42.0
Chaves	33,908	4.8
Colfax	6,962	1.0
Curry	33,956	4.8
Dona Ana	46,189	6.5
Eddy	31,612	4.5
Grant	10,659	1.5
Hidalgo	3,429	0.5
Lea	40,183	5.7
Los Alamos	15,171	2.1
Luna	8,343	1.2
McKinley	18,554	2.6
Otero	33,887	4.8
Quay	7,189	1.0
Rio Arriba	3,902	0.5
Roosevelt	10,554	1.5
San Juan	25,333	3.6
San Miguel	13,835	1.9
Santa Fe	41,793	5.9
Sierra	4,656	0.6
Socorro	4,687	0.7
Union	2,931	0.4
Valencia	13,591	1.9

counties (Dona Ana, Lea, Santa Fe, and Bernalillo) accounted for 60.1 percent of the urban population of the state. On the other hand, five counties (Hidalgo, Rio Arriba, Sierra, Socorro, and Union) had only 2.7 percent of the state's urban population.

The location of New Mexico's incorporated urban centers is shown in figure 11. These centers, with a combined population of 614,152, constitute 86.6 percent of the state's urban population. The remaining 13.4 percent consists of 53,700 inhabitants in the urbanized area outside the city of Albuquerque and 40,923 in unincorporated places in the following counties: Curry, Otero, Los Alamos, Dona Ana, and McKinley.

The importance of the rural population in each county relative to New Mexico's total rural population can be seen in table 12.

As with the urban population,

Fig. 11. New Mexico's urban population centers, 1970

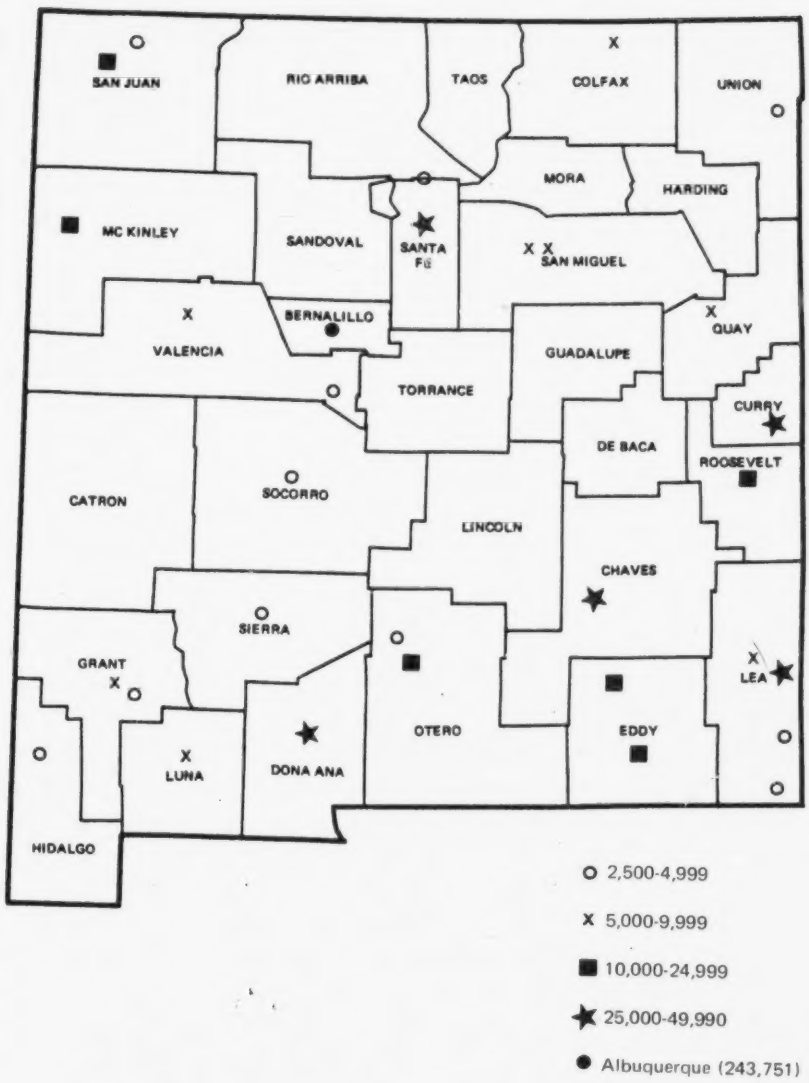


Table 12. Distribution of New Mexico's rural population, by county, 1970

County	Rural Population	
	Number	Percent
The State	307,255	100.0
Bernalillo	18,323	6.0
Catron	2,198	0.7
Chaves	9,427	3.1
Colfax	5,208	1.7
Curry	5,561	1.8
De Baca	2,547	0.8
Dona Ana	23,584	7.7
Eddy	9,507	3.1
Grant	11,371	3.7
Guadalupe	4,969	1.6
Harding	1,348	0.4
Hidalgo	1,305	0.4
Lea	9,371	3.1
Lincoln	7,560	2.5
Los Alamos	27	*
Luna	3,363	1.1
McKinley	24,654	8.0
Mora	4,673	1.5
Otero	7,210	2.3
Quay	3,714	1.2
Rio Arriba	21,268	6.9
Roosevelt	5,925	1.9
Sandoval	17,492	5.7
San Juan	27,184	8.9
San Miguel	8,116	2.6
Santa Fe	11,963	3.9
Sierra	2,533	0.8
Socorro	5,076	1.7
Taos	17,516	5.7
Torrance	5,290	1.7
Union	1,994	0.7
Valencia	26,948	8.8

*Less than one-tenth of one percent.

although not as much, the rural population is concentrated in certain counties in the state. The 10 counties with over 10,000 rural population account for almost two-thirds of the rural population. In comparison, the seven counties each having less than one percent of the state's rural population collectively had 3.8 percent of that population.

The urban-rural distribution in 1970 for New Mexico's counties is shown in figure 12.

Urbanization in the 1950s. Table 9 shows the extensive urbanization in New Mexico during the 1950s. The increase in the proportion of urban people from 50.2 percent in 1950 to 65.9 percent in 1960 was phenomenal. It was an increase of 15.7 percent; the increase for the United States as a whole was only 5.9 percent. Numerically, the increase amounted to 284,590 persons. Over one-third of the increase occurred in Albuquerque.

Most of the urban population growth occurred in places that were classified as urban in 1950. The majority of these were incorporated places with 2,500 or more inhabitants. The increase in these centers during the 1950s accounted for 77.9 percent of the urban increase in the state. However, this increase was partly due to changes in the corporate limits of the centers. Numerically, the population in the centers increased by 221,723 persons (including 104,374 in Albuquerque), but only 58.9 percent of that increase occurred within the corporate limits as they existed in 1950. The remaining 41.1 percent was in areas annexed to the centers between 1950 and 1960.[23]

The remainder of the urban population growth during the 1950s (22.1 percent) was due to the following factors: 1) the delineation of an urbanized area in Bernalillo County around Albuquerque (exclusive of Armijo, Atrisco-Five Points, and Los Duranes, which became a part of the city in the 1950s); 2) the increase in two unincorporated centers (Los Alamos and Zuni Pueblo) and the addition of one unincorporated center (State College-Mesilla Park), all with more than 2,500 inhabitants; and 3) the inclusion of seven incorporated places which were classified as urban in the 1960 census but not in the 1950 census (Aztec, Bernalillo, Eunice, Grants, Jal. Milan, and Tularosa).[24]

Urban Population Changes in the 1960s. New Mexico's urban population grew rapidly during the 1950s but not during the 1960s. Between 1960 and 1970, the proportion of urban inhabitants in the total population increased by only 3.9 percent, about the same as the national average of 3.6 percent. In the 1960s, the extension of the corporate limits of places with 2,500 or more inhabitants contributed much less to the urban population than in the 1950s. Annexation added only 32,010 persons to the urban population in the 1960s, compared with 91,088 in the 1950s. In many of the centers, the increase in numbers due to annexation did not compensate for losses within the corporate limits as they existed in 1960.[25]

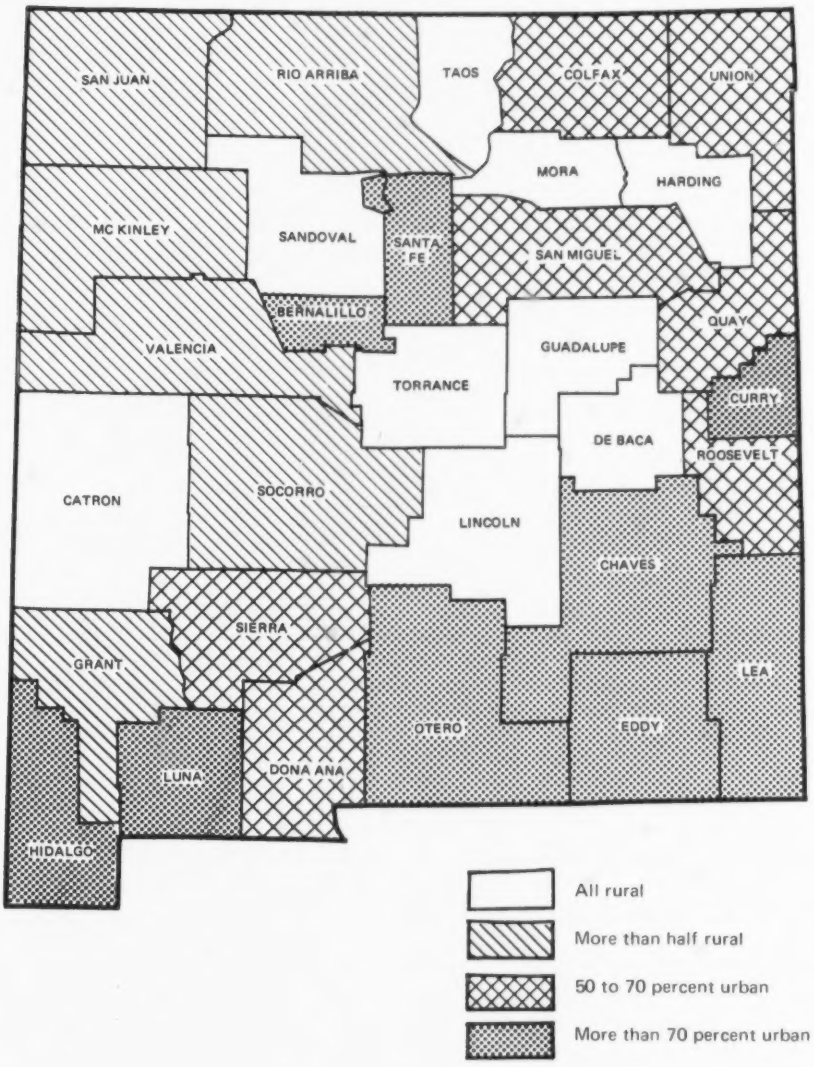
Furthermore, urban population increases were much less general over the state than they had been in the previous decade. In 10 of the 22 counties with urban population in 1960, decreases occurred during

[23]Final Report PC(1)-33A, *Number of Inhabitants: New Mexico,* U.S. Census of Population: 1960, p. 10.

[24]*Ibid.*

[25]*Ibid.*, p. 2.

Fig. 12. Urban-rural distribution of the population, by county, New Mexico, 1970

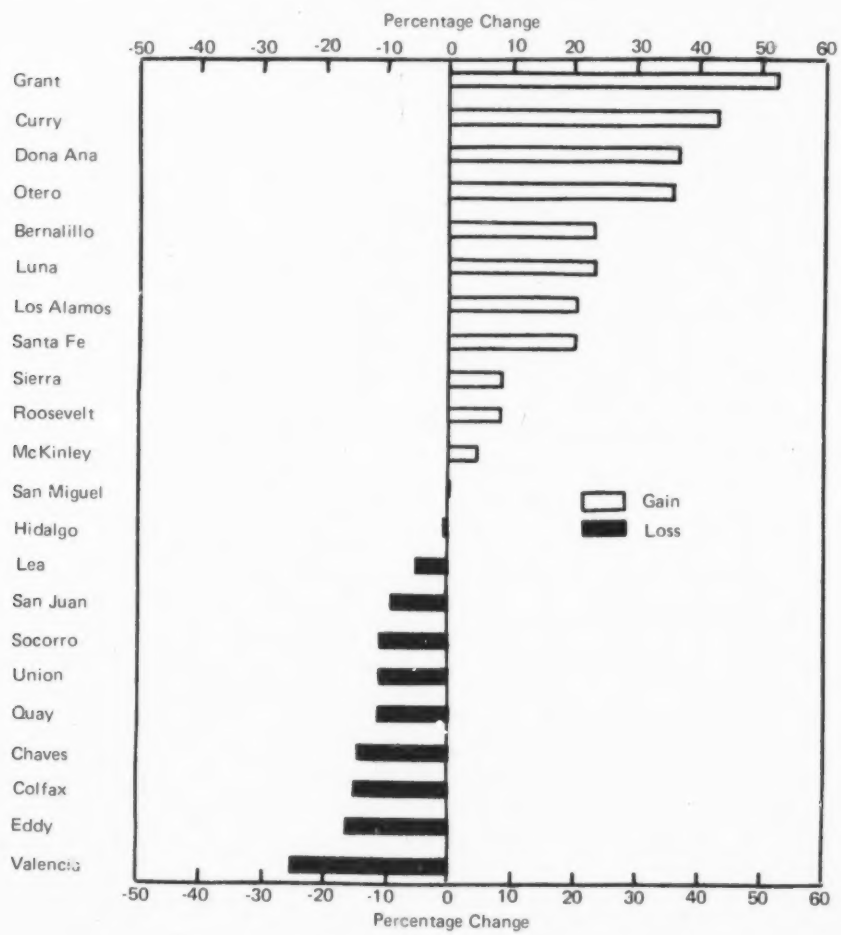


the decade. The increase in five counties–Bernalillo, Curry, Dona Ana, Otero, and Santa Fe–amounted to more than the urban population increase for the entire state.

Figure 13 shows the New Mexico counties with urban population in 1970 ranked according to the percentage change between 1960 and 1970.

Rural Population Changes in the 1960s. As the percentage of urban people in the total population of New Mexico has increased, the percentage of rural inhabitants has

Fig. 13. Counties ranked by percentage change in urban population, 1960 to 1970



decreased. Despite its longtime proportional decline, the population increased numerically until the 1940s (table 9). In 1950, for the first time, the census showed a numerical as well as a percentage decline in the rural population. This numerical decline has continued: it amounted to 16,119 persons between 1940 and 1950; 14,754 between 1950 and 1960; and 17,319 between 1960 and 1970.

Just as the urban population changes varied from county to county, the rural population changes differed greatly among counties. Eleven counties had fewer than 10,000 inhabitants in 1970, and nine of these had lost rural residents between 1960 and 1970. The rural exodus has so reduced the size of the population that not enough people are left to maintain basic services and institutions. Many of the people who remain in such areas live in a chronic economic depression.

Rural population in the state declined 5.3 percent. Twenty-three counties had declines ranging from 2.4 percent in Lincoln County to 47.8 percent in Chaves County. (Los Alamos had a decline of 94.0 percent, but only 453 persons were classified as rural there in 1960.)

While nine counties had an increase in the rural population, the increase in some of them was deceptive. Much of the increase no doubt was due to people moving from urban centers to adjacent rural areas. For example, people have undoubtedly moved from Albuquerque to Sandoval and Valencia counties. The same was likely true in Santa Fe County, where people may have moved from Santa Fe to areas outside the city.

The rank order of the counties in terms of the percentage gain or loss of rural population between 1960 and 1970 is shown in figure 14. The change in Los Alamos is not shown because of the small rural population in the county.

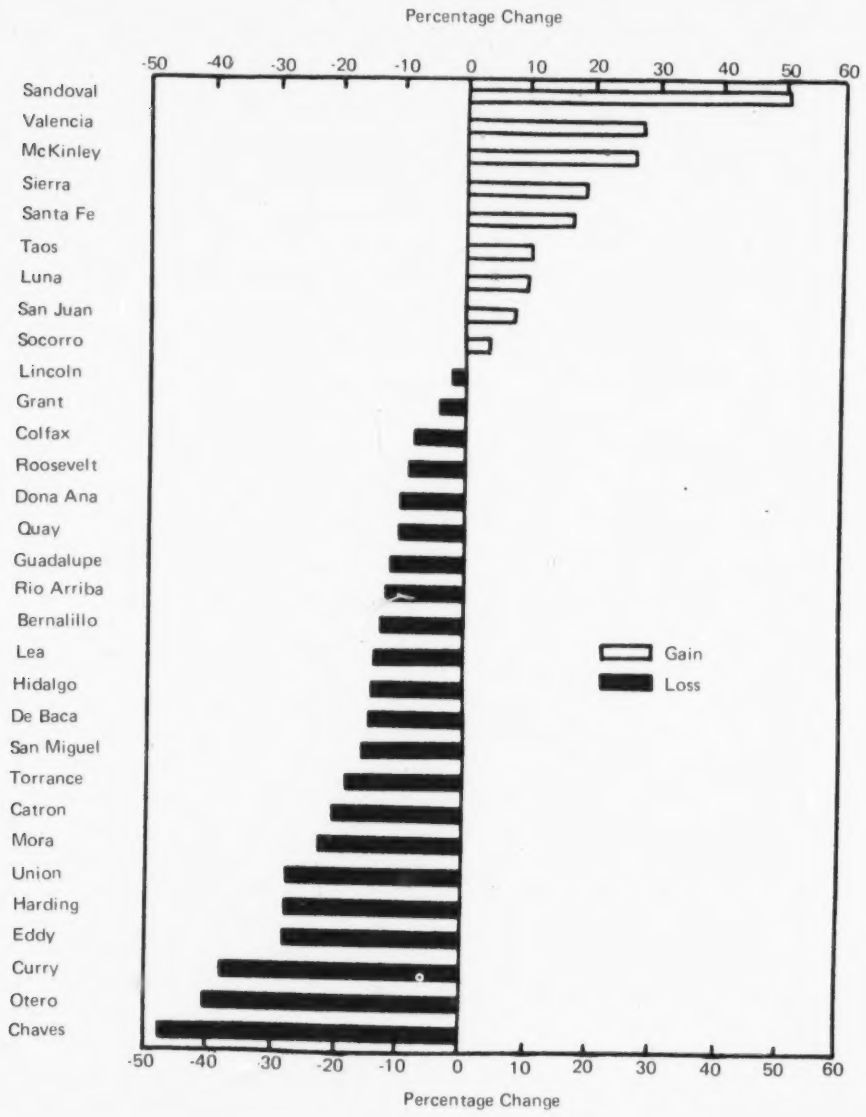
The Rural-Nonfarm and Rural-Farm Population. In 1930, the federal census, for the first time, classified the rural population as rural-farm and rural-nonfarm. For purposes of comparison, the classification was carried back to 1920. It has been used in all subsequent censuses.

As used in the federal census, the rural-farm population comprises all rural residents living on farms; the rural-nonfarm comprises the remaining rural population. Farms are considered to be "places of 10 or more acres from which sales of farm products amounted to $50 or more in the preceding calendar year or places of less than 10 acres from which the sales of farm products amounted to $250 or more in the preceding year."[26]

The rural-nonfarm population in New Mexico doubled in the 50 years between 1920 and 1970. During that period, it increased from 134,848 in 1920 to 267,808 in 1970. It increased consistently between 1920 and 1950 and very rapidly between 1950 and 1960.

[26]Final Report PC(1)-C33, *General Social and Economic Characteristics: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, Appendix A, p. 2.

Fig. 14. Counties ranked by percentage change in rural population, 1960 to 1970

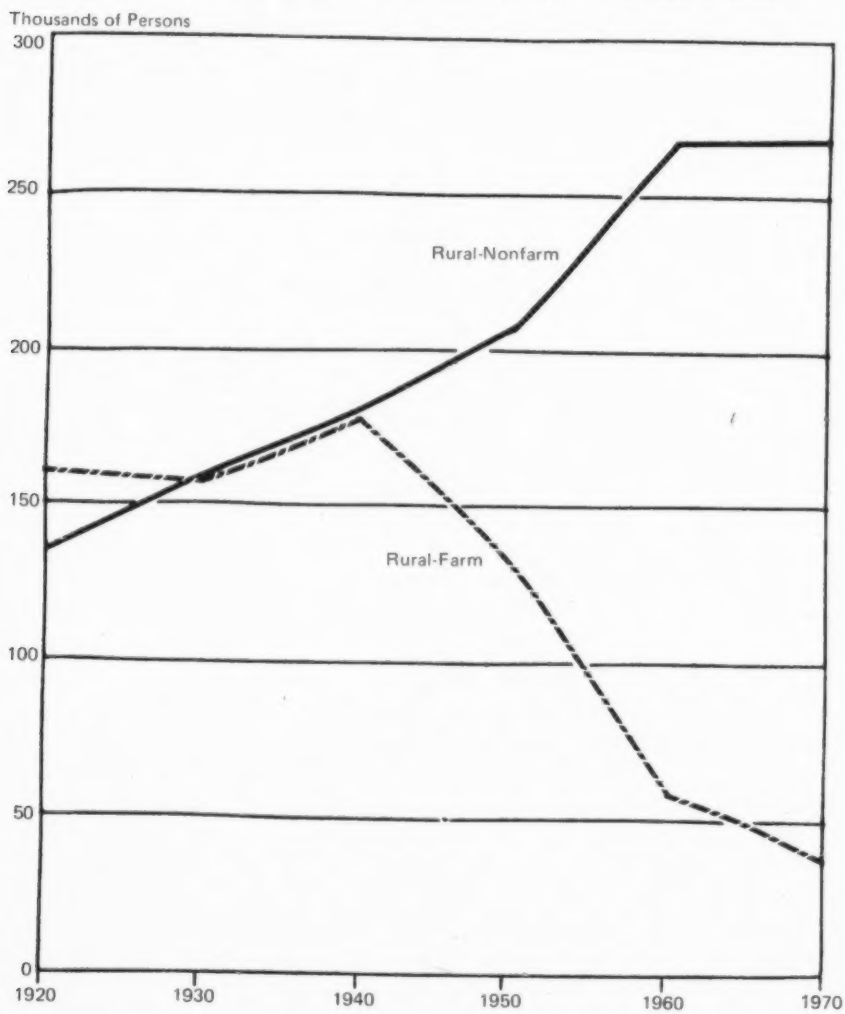


However, there was only a slight increase during the 1960s.

From 1920 to 1970, the rural-farm population dropped from 160,542 to 37,487, less than one-fourth of what it was in 1920.[27] The decrease was slight in the 1920s, and the rural-farm population even

[27] The figures for the rural-nonfarm and rural-farm populations used in this section, when added together, make a rural population of 305,295. This figure is at variance with the figure for the rural population shown in table 8 (307,225). The discrepancy is due to the fact that the two totals are derived from different tabulations. The figure in table 8 is based on a complete count of the population, while the figures for the rural-nonfarm and rural-farm populations are based on a 20-percent sample.

Fig. 15. Rural-nonfarm and rural-farm populations, New Mexico, 1920 to 1970



increased some in the 1930s. Since 1940, however, it has declined sharply. Numerical changes in the farm and nonfarm populations are shown in figure 15.

The loss in the rural-farm population between 1940 and 1970 was not offset by the increase in the rural-nonfarm population. While the rural-nonfarm population did increase substantially between 1920 and 1970 (at least until 1960), the percentage of rural-nonfarm people in the total population has declined consistently since 1930 (there was an increase of one-tenth of one percent between 1920 and 1930). The decline was from 37.4 percent in 1920 to 26.4 percent in 1970. This compares with 22.3 percent for the United States as a whole.

A much more drastic decline occurred in the proportion of rural-farm people in the total population. The percentage declined from 44.6 percent in 1920 to 33.3 percent in 1940, and then sharply to 19.4 percent in 1950, and again as sharply to 6.1 percent in 1960. By 1970, the percentage had declined to only 3.7 percent of the total population. This compares with 4.1 percent for the United States as a whole.

The changes between 1920 and 1970 in the percentage distribution of the two segments of the rural population in New Mexico as well as the urban population are compared in figure 16.

Nonfarm and farm residence of the rural population in New Mexico's counties is shown in table 13.

Fig. 16. Percentage distribution of the total population by major categories, New Mexico, 1920 to 1970

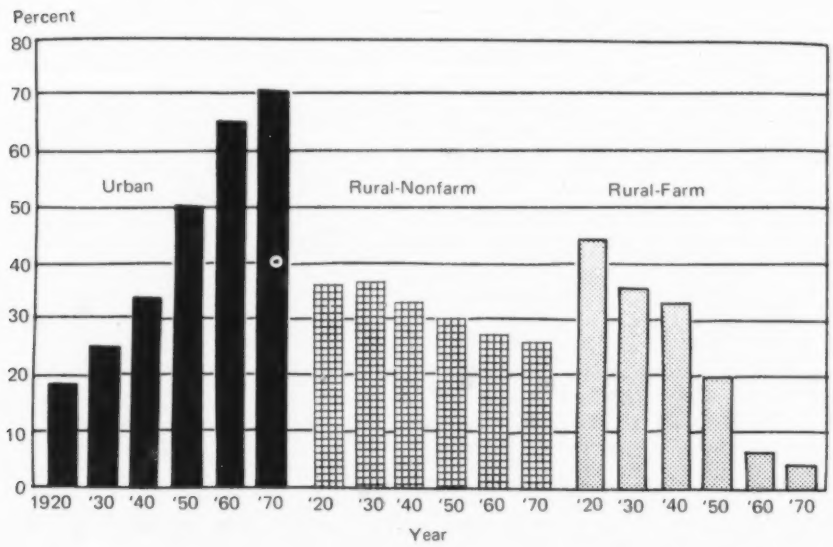


Table 13. Nonfarm and farm residence of the rural population, by county, New Mexico, 1970*

County	Total	Nonfarm	Farm
		percent	
The State	100.0	87.7	12.3
Bernalillo	100.0	98.7	1.3
Catron	100.0	74.6	25.4
Chaves	100.0	73.4	26.6
Colfax	100.0	87.1	12.9
Curry	100.0	76.0	24.0
De Baca	100.0	84.2	15.8
Dona Ana	100.0	84.3	15.7
Eddy	100.0	85.4	14.6
Grant	100.0	95.2	4.8
Guadalupe	100.0	88.4	11.6
Harding	100.0	76.7	23.3
Hidalgo	100.0	68.6	31.4
Lea	100.0	83.1	16.9
Lincoln	100.0	92.2	7.8
Los Alamos	100.0	100.0	0
Luna	100.0	77.2	22.8
McKinley	100.0	92.3	7.7
Mora	100.0	88.5	11.5
Otero	100.0	94.2	5.8
Quay	100.0	58.6	41.4
Rio Arriba	100.0	90.1	9.9
Roosevelt	100.0	48.7	51.3
Sandoval	100.0	96.1	3.9
San Juan	100.0	81.4	18.6
San Miguel	100.0	87.2	12.8
Santa Fe	100.0	97.5	2.5
Sierra	100.0	84.2	15.8
Socorro	100.0	92.4	7.6
Taos	100.0	95.3	4.7
Torrance	100.0	85.4	14.6
Union	100.0	40.7	59.3
Valencia	100.0	92.0	8.0

*The numerical data on which the percentages in this table are based are from PC(S1)-27, *Rural Population by Farm-Nonfarm Residence for Counties in the United States: 1970*, p. 17.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC CHARACTERISTICS

Racial Composition. Table 14 shows the racial composition of the population of New Mexico from 1900 to 1970. The preponderance of whites is quite evident.[28] Indians are by far the largest nonwhite group. There is a small proportion of Negroes and a very small proportion of other races.

The proportions of the various racial elements in New Mexico have not changed greatly during this century, although the increase in the percentage of Indians between 1960 and 1970 was fairly substantial.

The Indian Population. Except for the Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation, all the Indian reservations are located in northern and northwestern New Mexico, and the Indians are concentrated there.

Over 60 percent of the Indians in New Mexico live in McKinley and

[28] As used by the Bureau of the Census, the category "white" includes persons who indicated their race as white, as well as persons who did not classify themselves in one of the other race categories on the census questionnaire (Negro, Indian, and several Oriental categories), but entered Mexican, Puerto Rican, or a response suggesting Indo-European stock. See Final Report PC(1)-B33, *General Population Characteristics: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, Appendix B, p. 7.

Table 14. Racial composition of the population of New Mexico, 190 to 1970*

Year	Total	White	Indian	Negro	All Other
			number		
1970	1,016,000	915,815	72,788	19,555	7,842
1960	951,023	875,763	56,255	17,063	1,942
1950	681,187	630,211	41,901	8,408	667
1940	531,818	492,312	34,510	4,672	324
1930	423,317	391,095	28,941	2,850	431
1920	360,350	334,673	19,512	5,733	432
1910	327,301	304,594	20,573	1,628	506
1900	195,310	180,207	13,144	1,610	349
			percent		
1970	100.0	90.1	7.2	1.9	0.8
1960	100.0	92.1	5.9	1.8	0.2
1950	100.0	92.5	6.2	1.2	**
1940	100.0	92.6	6.5	0.9	**
1930	100.0	92.4	6.8	0.7	0.1
1920	100.0	92.9	5.4	1.6	0.1
1910	100.0	93.1	6.3	0.5	0.2
1900	100.0	92.3	6.7	0.8	0.2

*Final Report PC(1)-B33, *General Population Characteristics: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, pp. 32-33.

**Less than one-tenth of one percent.

San Juan counties (table 15). All but 3.4 percent of the remainder are located in seven other counties, each with over 1,000 Indians.

Because they are concentrated in north and northwestern New Mexico, Indians constitute a large proportion of the total population

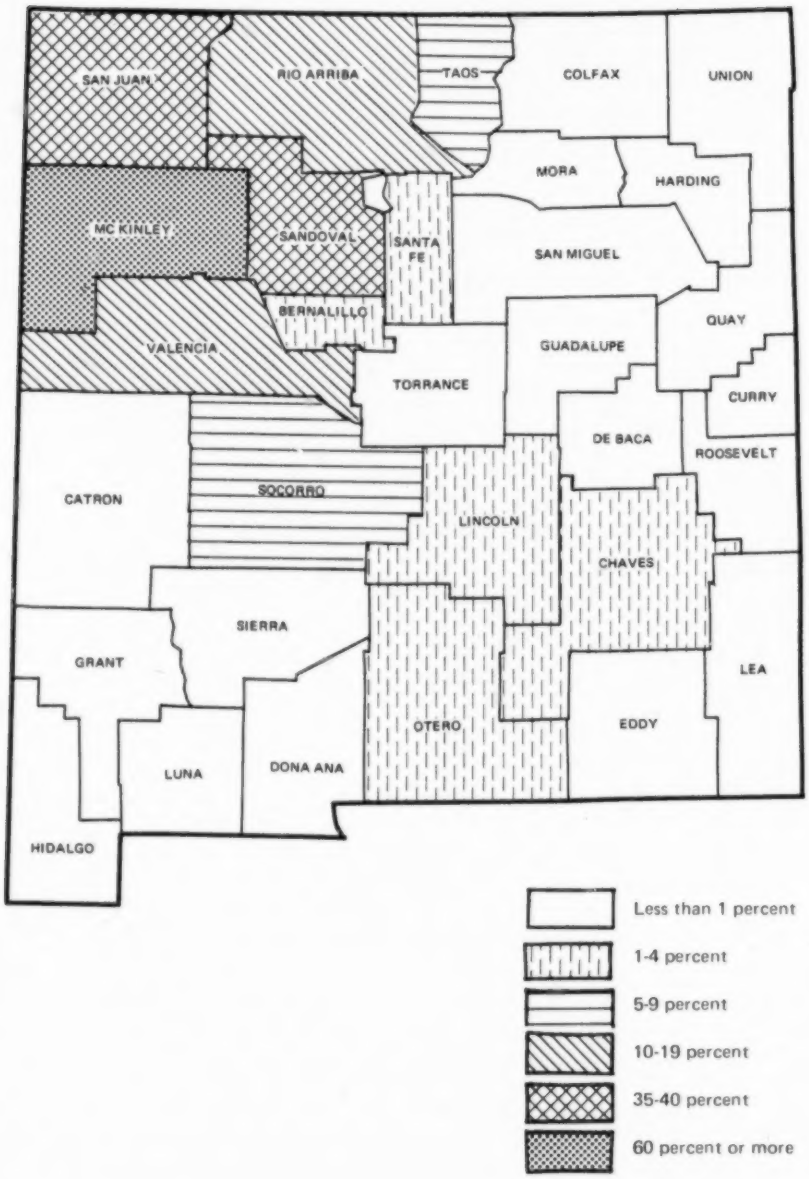
Table 15. Distribution of the Indian population, by county, New Mexico, 1970*

County	Total Population	Indians		
		Number	Percent of total population	Percentage distribution in the State
The State	1,016,000	72,788	7.2	100.0
Bernalillo	315,774	5,839	1.8	8.0
Catron	2,198	10	0.5	**
Chaves	43,335	603	1.4	0.8
Colfax	12,170	45	0.4	0.1
Curry	39,517	116	0.3	0.2
De Baca	2,547	2	0.1	**
Dona Ana	69,773	207	0.3	0.3
Eddy	41,119	83	0.2	0.1
Grant	22,030	84	0.4	0.1
Guadalupe	4,969	0	0	0
Harding	1,348	7	0.5	**
Hidalgo	4,734	20	0.4	**
Lea	49,554	175	0.4	0.2
Lincoln	7,560	82	1.1	0.1
Los Alamos	15,198	71	0.5	0.1
Luna	11,706	9	0.1	**
McKinley	43,208	26,507	61.3	36.4
Mora	4,673	2	**	**
Otero	41,097	1,620	3.9	2.2
Quay	10,903	18	0.2	**
Rio Arriba	25,170	2,755	10.9	3.8
Roosevelt	16,479	97	0.6	0.1
Sandoval	17,492	6,796	38.9	9.3
San Juan	52,517	18,439	35.1	25.3
San Miguel	21,951	91	0.4	0.1
Santa Fe	53,756	1,096	2.0	1.5
Sierra	7,189	16	0.2	**
Socorro	9,763	707	7.2	1.0
Taos	17,516	1,193	6.8	1.6
Torrance	5,290	7	0.1	**
Union	4,925	11	0.2	**
Valencia	40,539	6,080	15.0	8.4

*The numerical data for the Indian Population are from Final Report PC(1)-B33, *General Population Characteristics: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 63.

**Less than one-tenth of one percent.

Fig. 17. Percentage of Indians in county populations, New Mexico, 1970



in some counties. Three out of every five persons in McKinley County are Indians, and in Sandoval and San Juan counties over one-third of the total population belong to the Indian race. The percentage of Indians in New Mexico's counties is shown in figure 17.

The Negro Population. Like the Indian population, the Negro population in New Mexico is concentrated in a few counties (see table 16). Seven counties have 88.5 percent of all the Negroes in the state. Bernalillo County has 34.2 percent of all of the people in this racial group, and Curry and Lea counties each have over 10 percent. Together they have 60.4 percent of all Negroes in the state. The other four counties—Chaves, Dona Ana, Eddy, and Otero—have 28.1 percent.

Although most of the Negroes in New Mexico live in a relatively few counties, they do not constitute a large proportion of the population in any county. Only seven counties have a percentage greater than the average of 1.9 percent for the state as a whole, and in only three of those—Curry, Lea, and Otero—is the percentage more then twice the state average.

Figure 18 shows that the Negroes of New Mexico are concentrated in Bernalillo County and in counties adjacent to Texas.

The counties with the largest proportion of Negroes in the total population are also the counties with centers of population that are among the largest in the state. On this basis, it might be expected that the Negro population is more urban than rural. Such is the case. While only 1.9 percent of New Mexico's population are Negroes, 2.6 percent of the state's urban population are in that racial category.

The Spanish-American Population. The white population of New Mexico historically has been categorized as either Spanish-American or Anglo-American. The latter is not a satisfactory term because it includes all whites of non-Spanish heritage. However, the term has had widespread use and is used in this bulletin as a matter of convenience. The term "Spanish-American" is also subject to criticism on several counts. One is that while the language spoken may be Spanish, the cultural background is Mexican rather than Spanish. Another is that the term "Mexican-American" is coming into frequent use. Nevertheless, the term "Spanish-American" is used in this bulletin and is considered to be synonymous with "persons of Spanish language or Spanish surname"—the classification used by the Bureau of the Census in five southwestern states (Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas). As classified by the census bureau, "persons of Spanish language comprise persons of Spanish mother tongue and all other persons in families in which the head or wife reported Spanish as his or her mother tongue." In other words, the data presented are for "persons of Spanish language combined with all other persons of Spanish surname."

These criteria for including people in the Spanish-American cultural group in 1970 are not the same as

Table 16. Distribution of the Negro population, by county, New Mexico, 1970*

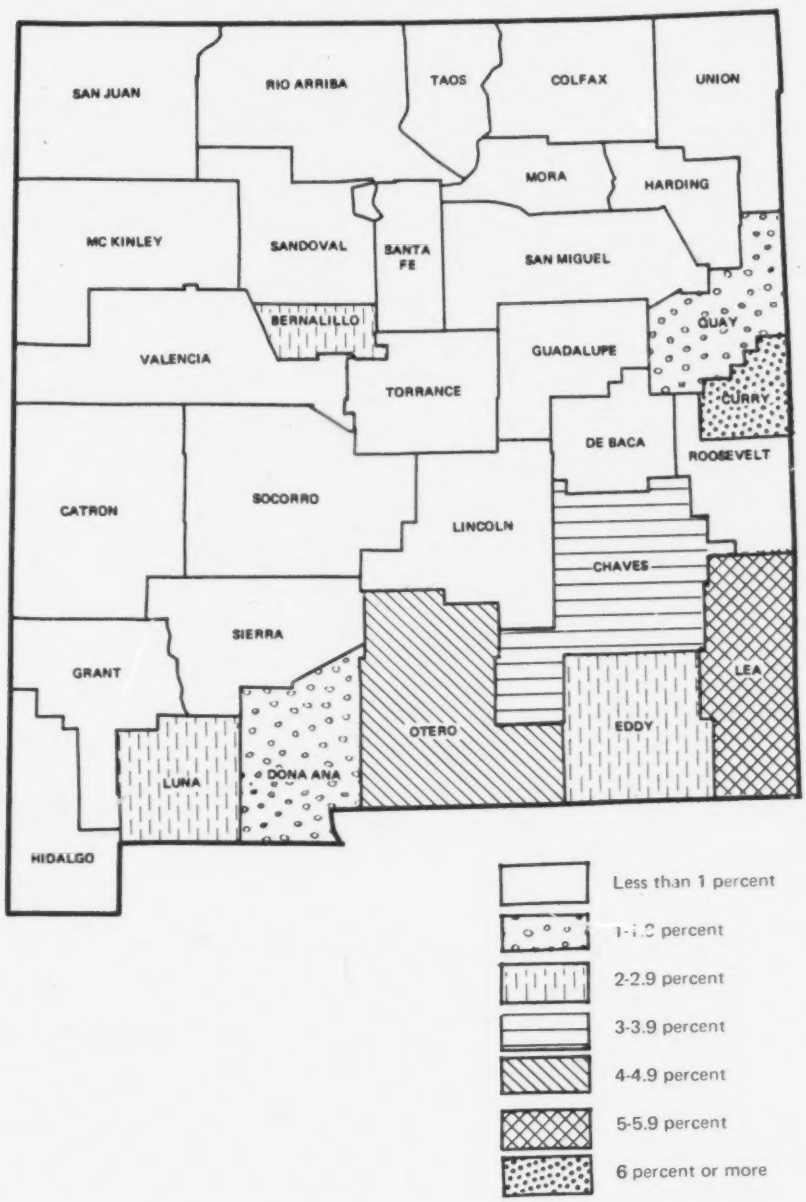
County	Total Population	Negroes		
		Number	Percent of total population	Percentage distribution in the State
The State	1,016,000	19,555	1.9	100.0
Bernalillo	315,774	6,689	2.1	34.2
Catron	2,198	7	0.3	**
Chaves	43,335	1,418	3.3	7.3
Colfax	12,170	62	0.5	0.3
Curry	39,517	2,525	6.4	12.9
De Baca	2,547	4	0.2	**
Dona Ana	69,773	1,338	1.9	6.8
Eddy	41,119	899	2.2	4.6
Grant	22,030	115	0.5	0.6
Guadalupe	4,969	5	0.1	**
Harding	1,348	0	0	0
Hidalgo	4,734	19	0.4	0.1
Lea	49,554	2,610	5.3	13.3
Lincoln	7,560	41	0.5	0.2
Los Alamos	15,198	61	0.4	0.3
Luna	11,706	234	2.0	1.2
McKinley	43,208	410	0.9	2.1
Mora	4,673	1	**	**
Otero	41,097	1,850	4.5	9.5
Quay	10,903	122	1.1	0.6
Rio Arriba	25,170	49	0.2	0.3
Roosevelt	16,479	113	0.7	0.6
Sandoval	17,492	19	0.1	0.1
San Juan	52,517	301	0.6	1.5
San Miguel	21,951	92	0.4	0.5
Santa Fe	53,756	268	0.5	1.4
Sierra	7,189	8	0.1	**
Socorro	9,763	67	0.7	0.3
Taos	17,516	28	0.2	0.1
Torrance	5,290	0	0	0
Union	4,925	3	0.1	**
Valencia	40,539	197	0.5	1.0

*The numerical data for the Negro population are from Final Report PC(1)-B33, *General Population Characteristics: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 63.

**Less than one-tenth of one percent.

the criterion used in 1950 and 1960, the only other two times the Bureau of the Census has tabulated data for the group. For those two decades, data were reported for "persons of Spanish surname" only. As a result, more people were included in the group in 1970 than would have

Fig. 18. Percentage of Negroes in the county populations, New Mexico, 1970



been if the criterion used in 1950 and 1960 had been employed. Concerned demographers are attempting to devise a formula by which data for 1970 can be revised so that population changes in the 1940s and 1950s can be compared with those in the 1960s for the group. So far, however, the efforts have not been fruitful.

By either the earlier or the recent definition, Spanish-Americans constitute a large segment of New Mexico's population. In 1970, they represented 44.5 percent of that portion of the state's population classified as white, or 40.1 percent of the total population. Table 17 shows their distribution in the various counties of the state.[29]

Spanish-Americans live in all of New Mexico's counties, but a large part of the group is concentrated in a few counties (table 17). Bernalillo County has 30.4 percent of the total, approximately the same proportion it has of the total population in the state. No other county has such a large proportion of the state's Spanish-Americans, but Dona Ana, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, and Valencia counties each have over five percent. Together the five counties have 58.4 percent of New Mexico's Spanish-Americans.

The Spanish-Americans constitute a minority group in the total state population, but not in many of the counties. In 18 counties, they constitute a majority of the population. They represent 94.6 percent of the population in Mora County and more than 80 percent of the populations of Guadalupe, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, and Taos counties. Of all the counties, Lea has the smallest proportion of Spanish-Americans, 12.5 percent. Counties other than Lea with less than one-fourth Spanish-Americans are Curry, Los Alamos, McKinley, Otero, Roosevelt, and San Juan.

The percentage distribution in each county shows the concentration of Spanish-Americans in the north-central portion of New Mexico (figure 19).

A comparison of figures 17, 18, and 19 gives a composite picture of the distribution of New Mexico's racial and ethnic minorities.

Foreign Stock. As used by the Bureau of the Census, the category "foreign stock" includes the foreign-born population and the native population of foreign or mixed parentage, all first- and second-generation Americans.

The foreign-born population in New Mexico reached its peak in 1920 both numerically and as a proportion of the total population. The number declined sharply in 1930, no doubt due in part to immigration quotas set for European countries. Since that time the number of foreign born in the state has varied from decade to decade, but in 1960 and 1970 the number was not

[29]The data presented in tables 14, 15, and 16 do not necessarily add up to the totals shown in table 3. In the first place, table 3 also includes the white population other than Spanish-Americans and the population of non-white races other than Indians and Negroes. More important is that the data in table 3 and the data for Indians and Negroes in tables 14 and 15 were based on a complete count whereas the data for the population of Spanish heritage in table 16 were derived from a 15-percent sample.

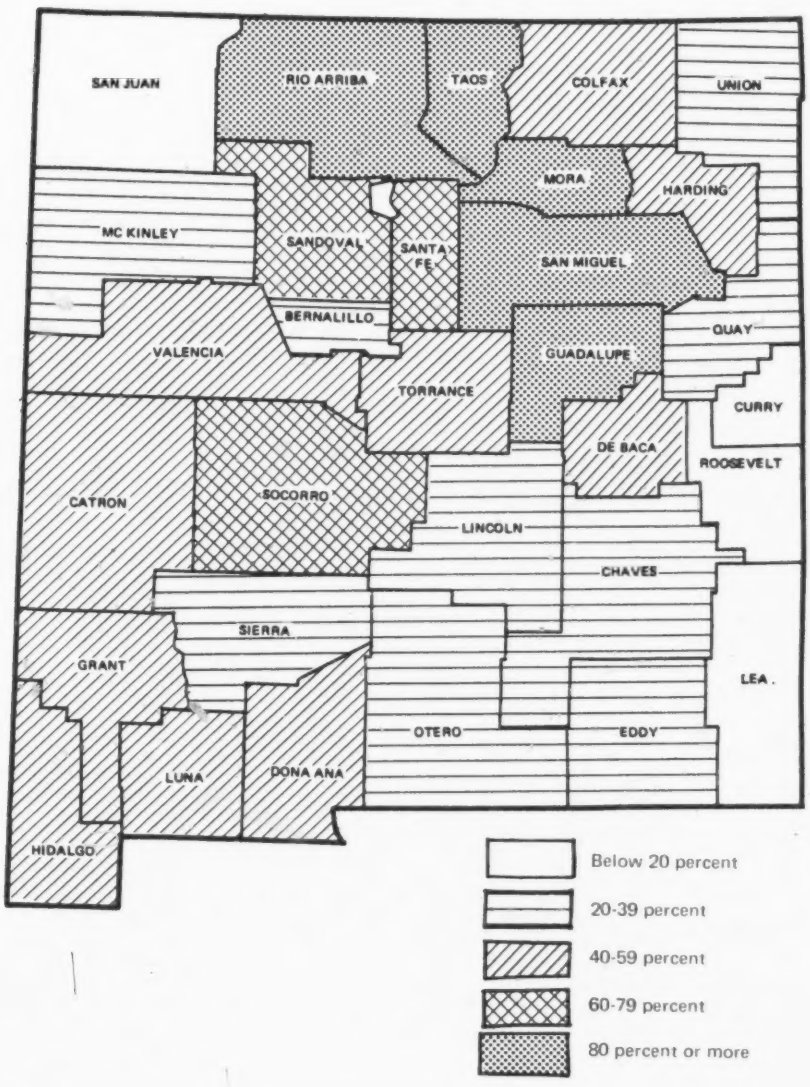
Table 17. Distribution of persons of Spanish language or Spanish surname, by county, New Mexico, 1970*

County	Total Population	Spanish-Americans		
		Number	Percent of total population	Percentage distribution in the State
The State	1,016,000	407,286	40.1	100.0
Bernalillo	315,774	123,814	39.2	30.4
Catron	2,198	927	42.1	0.2
Chaves	43,335	12,107	27.9	3.0
Colfax	12,170	6,464	53.1	1.6
Curry	39,517	6,872	17.4	1.7
De Baca	2,547	1,039	40.8	0.3
Dona Ana	69,773	35,439	50.8	8.7
Eddy	41,119	12,555	30.5	3.1
Grant	22,030	12,354	56.1	3.0
Guadalupe	4,969	4,199	84.5	1.0
Harding	1,348	664	49.3	0.2
Hidalgo	4,734	2,784	58.8	0.7
Lea	49,554	6,202	12.5	1.5
Lincoln	7,560	2,568	34.0	0.6
Los Alamos	15,198	2,699	17.8	0.7
Luna	11,706	5,441	46.5	1.3
McKinley	43,208	8,626	20.0	2.1
Mora	4,673	4,419	94.6	1.1
Otero	41,097	9,730	23.7	2.4
Quay	10,903	3,924	36.0	1.0
Rio Arriba	25,170	20,691	82.2	5.1
Roosevelt	16,479	2,524	15.3	0.6
Sandoval	17,492	11,159	63.8	2.7
San Juan	52,517	6,903	13.1	1.7
San Miguel	21,951	17,943	81.7	4.4
Santa Fe	53,756	34,883	64.9	8.6
Sierra	7,189	2,577	35.8	0.6
Socorro	9,763	5,858	60.0	1.4
Taos	17,516	15,109	86.3	3.7
Torrance	5,290	2,783	52.6	0.7
Union	4,925	1,395	28.3	0.3
Valencia	40,539	22,634	55.8	5.6

*The numerical data are from Final Report PC(1)-C33, *General Social and Economic Characteristics: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, pp. 222-224.

much below that in 1930. On the other hand, since the total population increased rapidly the percentage of foreign born has decreased correspondingly. The foreign born constituted 8.3 percent of New Mexico's population in 1920 but only 2.2 percent in 1970.

Fig. 19. Percentage of Spanish-Americans in the county populations, New Mexico, 1970



The number of persons of foreign or mixed parentage in New Mexico has been about three times as great as the number of foreign born. In 1970, the former constituted 6.5 percent of the state's population.

The country of origin of the foreign born and the population of

foreign or mixed parentage is shown in table 18.

As would be expected, the largest number of foreign born in New Mexico were born in Mexico—approximately half of all the foreign born in the state in 1970.[30] The United Kingdom, Germany, and Canada each contributed about five percent of the foreign born, as did Asia. For the most part, the percentage of persons of foreign or mixed parentage follow the same pattern as that for the foreign born.

[30]Census population data do not take into consideration illegal immigration to the United States although reportedly there are a large number of such immigrants from Mexico residing in New Mexico.

Table 18. Country of origin of the foreign-born population and the native-born population of foreign or mixed parentage, New Mexico, 1970*

	Foreign-Born Population		Foreign or Mixed Parentage	
Country of Origin	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	22,510	100.0	66,170	100.0
United Kingdom	1,526	6.8	4,474	6.8
Ireland	213	1.0	1,505	2.3
Norway	123	0.5	749	1.1
Sweden	120	0.5	1,561	2.4
Denmark	62	0.3	659	1.0
Netherlands	235	1.0	420	0.6
Switzerland	82	0.4	475	0.7
France	311	1.4	908	1.4
Germany	1,779	7.9	5,659	8.6
Poland	217	1.0	1,205	1.8
Czechoslovakia	106	0.5	657	1.0
Austria	257	1.1	1,226	1.9
Hungary	154	0.7	533	0.8
Yugoslavia	117	0.5	782	1.2
U.S.S.R.	264	1.2	1,461	2.2
Lithuania	63	0.3	308	0.5
Greece	258	1.1	489	0.7
Italy	680	3.0	3,236	4.9
Other Europe	353	1.6	1,372	2.1
Asia	1,279	5.7	2,258	3.4
Canada	1,410	6.3	4,253	6.4
Mexico	11,052	49.1	26,770	40.4
Cuba	257	1.1	161	0.2
Other America	550	2.4	934	1.4
All Other	256	1.1	413	0.6
Not Reported	786	3.5	3,702	5.6

*The numerical data are from Final Report PC(1)-C33, *General Social and Economic Characteristics: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 126.

AGE AND SEX COMPOSITION

The age and sex composition of a population has important biological and social implications. It determines the population's fertility, mortality, and migration, upon which depend its future age and sex structure. The proportions of old people, children, or people in the middle-age groups in a population and the proportions of males and females in each age group affect such social and economic factors as marriage, birth, death, and disease rates; economic productivity; the emphasis on certain goods and services; education; dependency; and social attitudes. For example, an aging population needs and is interested in social security and medicare, has higher death rates than a younger population, and has different social attitudes. On the other hand, an increase in the proportion of children in the total population increases the prospects for future fertility, increases the need for education and welfare, and tends to reduce the population's economic productivity per capita.

Age Composition. The simplest way to describe the age distribution of a population is by its median age—that age which divides the distribution into two equal parts, one half being older than the median age and one half younger.

Over the years, New Mexico has had a relatively young population, compared with the United States as a whole (table 19). In 1890, the median age for New Mexico was approximately the same as that for the United States. For the next 40 years, it remained relatively constant in New Mexico, but it consistly went up in the United States. Although the median age went up some in New Mexico between 1930 and 1950, the rise was slower than for the United States, so that the difference became even greater than it had been in the previous 40 years. Between 1950 and 1960 both median ages dropped sharply, no doubt due to the high birth rate of the post-World War II years. The decline continued in the United States in the 1960s but again moved upward in New Mexico.

The rise in New Mexico's median age from 1960 to 1970 to a large extent was due to the sharp decline in the state's birth rate. The birth rate for the United States also declined during that decade but not nearly as sharply as it did in New Mexico.

Another factor contributing to the increase in median age in New Mexico between 1960 and 1970 may have been the extensive net out-migration from the state. If the out-migrants were relatively young, the median age would tend to go up.

The median ages for New Mexico and the United States are shown graphically in figure 20.

Changes in the median ages of male and female segments of New Mexico's population between 1890 and 1970 have not been alike (see table 19). The median age of males did not vary greatly during the 80 years; it was only one-tenth of a percent higher in 1970 than in 1890.

Table 19. Median age of the population, United States and New Mexico, 1890 to 1970*

Year	United States	New Mexico		
		Total	Male	Female
1890	22.0	21.8	23.1	20.3
1900	22.9	21.2	22.6	19.7
1910	24.1	21.7	23.1	20.1
1920	25.3	21.8	23.1	20.3
1930	26.4	21.7	22.6	20.9
1940	29.0	23.0	23.6	22.4
1950	30.2	24.0	24.2	23.8
1960	29.5	22.8	22.8	22.9
1970	28.1	23.9	23.2	24.5

*The data for 1890-1960 are taken from PC(1)-1B, *General Population Characteristics: United States Summary*, U.S. Census of Population: 1960, p. 153 and PC(1)-33B, *General Population Characteristics: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1960, p. 23; the data for 1970 are from PC(1)-B1, *General Population Characteristics: United States Summary: 1970*, p. 310.

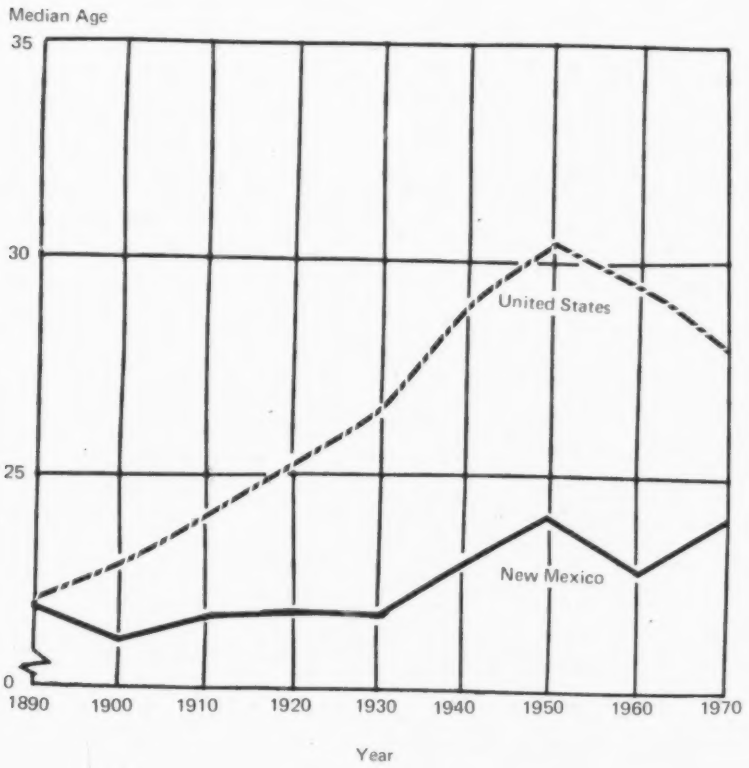
On the other hand, the median age of females increased from 20.3 to 24.5 during the period. In 1890 and for several decades thereafter, the median age for females was considerably lower than that for males. Beginning with 1930, the difference gradually decreased, and in 1960, for the first time, the median age for females was higher than that for males in New Mexico. By 1970, the median age for females had risen even farther above that for males. This general trend can be explained by the increasingly higher life expectancy for females, which has been characteristic throughout the United States.

The median age of New Mexico's population varies considerably from county to county (see table 20). It ranges from a low of 19.2 in McKinley County to a high of 43.6 in Sierra County.

The differences in the median age in the various counties reflect the proportion of the total population in specified age groups (see table 20). For example, Sierra County with a median age of 43.6 has 24.7 percent of its population 65 years and over and only 28.5 percent under 18 years. Conversely, McKinley County with a median age of 19.2 has only 4.4 percent of its population over 65 but 48.4 percent under 18 years. Obviously, many counties in New Mexico have to be concerned with either problems of youth or old age.

Sex Composition. The sex ratio (number of males per 100 females) is the most common way of meas-

Fig. 20. Median age of the population, New Mexico and the United States, 1890 to 1970



uring the proportion of males in a given population group at a given time. It is a convenient number for making direct comparison of the sex composition of specified population groups or of the same group at different times.

An imbalance in the proportions of males and females in a population group may be due to one or more of the following factors: 1) the preponderance of male births, which is characteristic of all societies; 2) a sex-selective death rate; and 3) sex-selective in- and out-migration. The first of these explains the high sex ratio typical of young age groups. The second is illustrated by the progressive increase in male mortality with increasing age as compared to female mortality. And the third is seen in earlier and more frequent rural-urban migration of females as compared with males and the greater

Table 20. Age composition of population, by county, New Mexico, 1970

County	Percentage Distribution by Age Groups*				Median Age **
	Total	Under 18 years	18 to 64 years	65 years and over	
The State	100.0	40.0	53.1	6.9	23.9
Bernalillo	100.0	38.4	55.5	6.1	24.4
Catron	100.0	35.3	52.4	12.3	31.3
Chaves	100.0	39.0	51.9	9.0	25.9
Colfax	100.0	38.2	49.5	12.3	28.9
Curry	100.0	37.9	54.8	7.4	23.6
De Baca	100.0	32.4	49.5	18.1	38.0
Dona Ana	100.0	40.4	54.3	5.3	22.0
Eddy	100.0	37.8	53.3	8.9	27.2
Grant	100.0	38.4	53.7	7.9	24.6
Guadalupe	100.0	44.3	46.3	9.4	22.4
Harding	100.0	36.4	49.0	14.6	34.2
Hidalgo	100.0	42.1	49.1	8.8	24.5
Lea	100.0	39.1	55.5	5.4	25.9
Lincoln	100.0	33.7	54.7	11.6	32.0
Los Alamos	100.0	42.4	55.5	2.1	26.7
Luna	100.0	40.2	49.6	10.2	27.0
McKinley	100.0	48.4	47.3	4.4	19.2
Mora	100.0	43.2	44.9	11.9	22.6
Otero	100.0	41.7	54.2	4.1	22.4
Quay	100.0	35.6	52.0	12.5	30.2
Rio Arriba	100.0	45.2	47.4	7.4	21.0
Roosevelt	100.0	30.9	59.2	9.9	23.8
Sandoval	100.0	44.6	48.2	7.2	21.3
San Juan	100.0	46.0	49.1	4.9	20.7
San Miguel	100.0	37.3	52.8	9.9	23.4
Santa Fe	100.0	39.4	52.8	7.8	24.8
Sierra	100.0	28.5	46.8	24.7	43.6
Socorro	100.0	39.7	52.6	7.7	22.9
Taos	100.0	42.4	48.3	9.3	23.3
Torrance	100.0	38.0	50.1	11.9	28.4
Union	100.0	35.6	49.1	15.4	33.2
Valencia	100.0	44.6	49.8	5.6	21.6

*Final Report PC(1)-B33, *General Population Characteristics: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 31.

**Ibid.*, pp. 64-70.

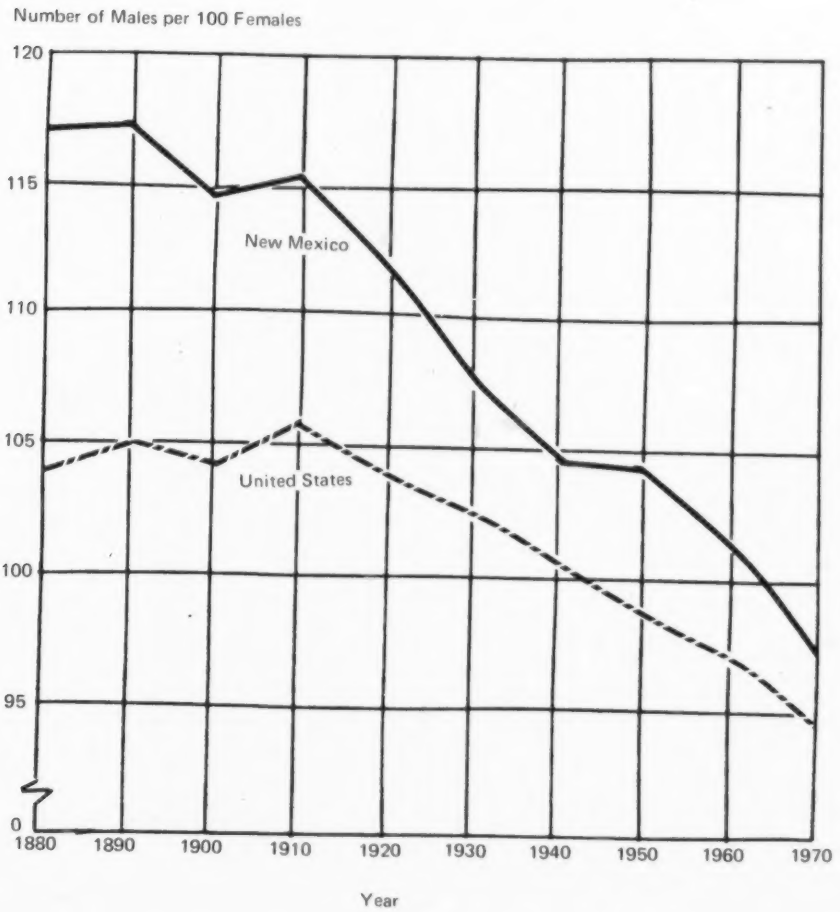
movement of males to frontier and agricultural communities.

The sex ratio in New Mexico in the past has been much higher than that for the United States as a whole, but in recent decades has approached that of the United States. Both have declined sharply. In 1880,

the sex ratio for New Mexico was 117.1 as compared to 103.6 for the United States. By 1970, the ratios were 97.2 and 94.8, respectively. Sex ratios for both New Mexico and the United States from 1880 to 1970 are shown in figure 21.

The trend in the sex ratios for both New Mexico and the United States between 1890 and 1970 followed much the same pattern except that the ratio for New Mexico declined much more rapidly. Between 1900 and 1910, the ratios

Fig. 21. Number of males per 100 females, New Mexico and the United States, 1880 to 1970



for New Mexico and for the nation as a whole both increased sharply, both because of sex-selective migration. For the United States, the increase was primarily due to the extremely high immigration from Europe to this country—immigration characteristically composes of a high proportion of males. For New Mexico, it was primarily due to the large migration to the state from other states, also sex-selective, since males have usually migrated earlier to comparatively new territory than have females.

Figure 21 also shows that in both the United States and New Mexico, the number of males per 100 females has fallen below 100. That point was first reached in the United States in 1950 but not until 1970 in New Mexico.

The preponderance of male births and a sex-selective death rate are reflected in the data in table 21.

While the progressive male mortality characteristic of most populations has also taken its toll in New Mexico, in 1970 females did not outnumber males in any age group

Table 21. Number of males per 100 females, by age groups, New Mexico, 1970*

Age Group	Total Population	Number of Males	Number of Females	Sex Ratio**
All ages	1,016,000	500,824	515,176	97.2
0–4 years	96,659	48,940	47,719	102.6
5–9 years	119,216	60,547	58,669	103.2
10–14 years	122,820	61,956	60,864	101.8
15–19 years	105,164	52,701	52,463	100.4
20–24 years	62,695	40,683	40,102	101.5
25–29 years	65,157	31,753	33,404	95.1
30–34 years	59,569	28,565	31,004	92.1
35–39 years	58,415	28,415	30,000	94.7
40–44 years	57,649	28,152	29,497	95.4
45–49 years	54,536	26,495	28,041	94.5
50–54 years	47,234	23,172	24,062	96.3
55–59 years	41,728	20,401	21,327	95.7
60–64 years	34,547	16,667	17,880	93.2
65–69 years	26,288	12,424	13,864	89.6
70–74 years	18,700	8,662	10,038	86.3
75–79 years	12,926	5,835	7,091	82.3
80–84 years	7,681	3,412	4,269	79.9
85 years and over	5,016	2,044	2,972	68.8

*The numerical data are from Final Report PC(1)-B33, *General Population Characteristics: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, pp. 35-36.

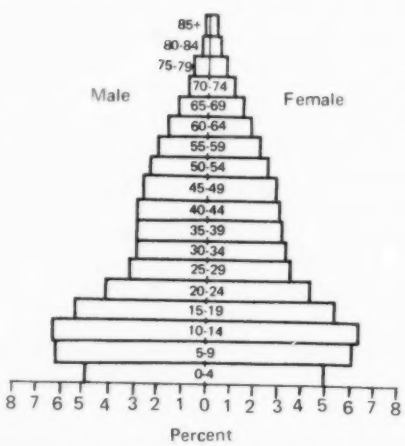
**Number of males per 100 females

younger than 25 to 29 years. The high birth rate in the state in the late 1940s, the 1950s, and the early 1960s, with the usual preponderance of male births, tended to keep the sex ratio of the younger age groups above 100. The lower female mortality rate associated with the increasing life expectancy for females compared with males, which has been taking place for some time, is also reflected in table 21. After the people of New Mexico have reached age 65, the sex ratio drops sharply.

Age and Sex Composition. The age and sex composition of a population can best be portrayed by use of a "population pyramid" (sometimes called an "age and sex pyramid"). The age groups (usually the conventional five-year age groups used by the Bureau of the Census) are plotted on a vertical scale and the percentage of the entire population found in the respective age groups is plotted on a horizontal scale, with the male percentages to the left and the female percentages to the right of the vertical axis. For a normal population, in which there have not been major fluctuations in birth and death rates, and which has not been affected greatly by migration, the percentages tend to decline with each age group, beginning with the lowest.

Population pyramids may be based either on absolute numbers or on proportions. Because of the wide difference in numbers of people in the state's rural and urban populations and in the rural-farm and rural-nonfarm groups, proportions are used in the pyramids here

Fig. 22 Age and sex composition of the total population, New Mexico, 1970



to show variations in the age and sex compositions of these population categories.

The age and sex pyramid of the total population of New Mexico in 1970 is quite symmetrical with respect to sex (figure 22). There are no extremely noticeable differences between the age composition of the two sexes. However, the proportions of the population in each age group do not follow the normal pattern of decline with increase in age. The 0 to 4 age group is smaller than the 5 to 9 age group, which in turn is smaller than the 10 to 14 age group, so that the decline in the proportion of the total population in the age groups begins with the 15 to 19 year group. Once the decline begins, it is very noticeable through

the 25 to 29 age group. The proportion of the population in the age groups older than 25 to 29 years changes very little all the way through the 40 to 44 age group, especially in the male segment of the population.

The smaller proportion of children in the 0 to 4 age group is due to the sharp drop in the birth rate in New Mexico in the latter part of the 1960s. The high proportion in the next five age groups is of course due to the high birth rates from the end of World War II until the middle of the 1960s. The relatively slight change in the proportion in the age groups through 45 to 49 reflects the relatively stationary birth rate in New Mexico in the years before World War II.

Population pyramids for the state's urban and rural populations and for the nonfarm and farm segments of the rural population are shown in figure 23. The urban population pyramid is similar to the pyramid for New Mexico's total population. This is to be expected since New Mexico is predominantly urban.

In earlier decades, when the majority of the people in the state were classified as rural, the proportion of people in the lower age groups was considerably smaller in the urban population than in the rural population, because of the higher birth rates in rural areas. On the other hand, the proportion of people in the middle age groups was larger in the urban population than in the rural population, to a large extent because of the cityward migration from rural areas. With the increasing urbanization in New Mexico since World War II, these differences between the total and urban populations have largely disappeared.

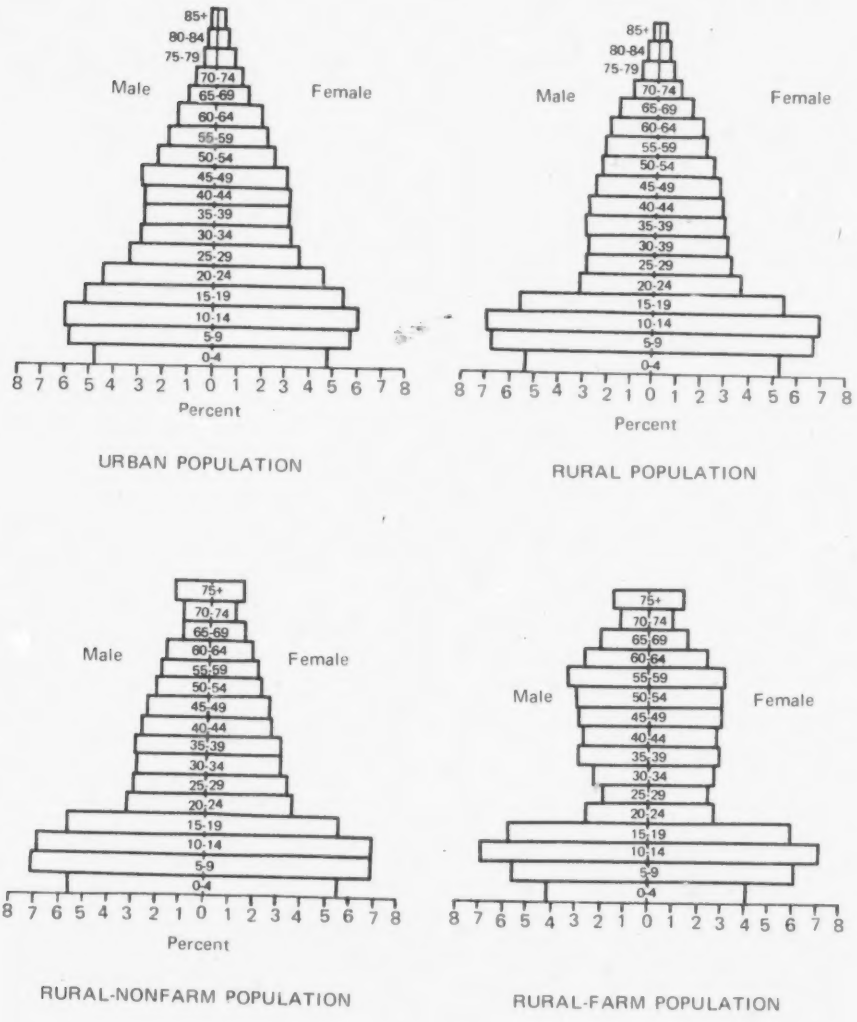
The population pyramids do not indicate a great difference in the age and sex compositions of New Mexico's total and urban populations, but the same cannot be said of the urban and rural populations. The percentages of both sexes in the lower age groups are considerably larger in the rural population, and in the middle age groups the proportions are somewhat smaller.

Such an age and sex composition has important implications for the rural areas. For example, the proportionally large number of people in the lower age groups will tend to increase problems of education and child dependency. On the other hand, the relatively smaller proportion in the middle age groups will have a measurable effect on economic productivity.

The state's rural-nonfarm population is similar in age and sex composition to its rural population, which is to be expected because approximately five-sixths of the state's rural population is made up of people classified as rural-nonfarm. But the population pyramid for the rural-farm population of New Mexico is quite different from any of the other pyramids.[31] It shows

[31]The population pyramids for the rural-nonfarm and rural-farm populations are slightly different from the other population pyramids shown in this bulletin. The 1970 federal census does not report data by five-year age groups beyond the 70-74 group for these two population categories.

Fig. 23. Age and sex composition of the urban, rural, rural-nonfarm, and rural-farm populations, New Mexico, 1970

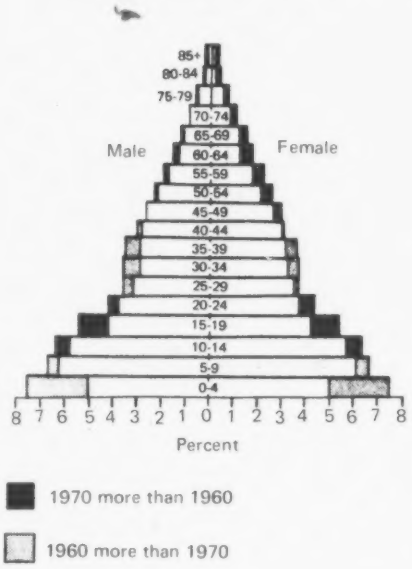


the rural-farm population to have smaller proportions of males and females in the 0 to 9 age group, a large proportion in the 10 to 19 age group, a much smaller proportion in the middle age groups, and considerably larger proportions in the older age groups. Of all the population pyramids shown here, the rural-farm one is based on by far the smallest number of people. Since the data on which the rural population pyramids are based are derived from a 20-percent sample, sampling variability could account for some of the differences in age and sex compositions. Nevertheless, the general picture of the composition of the rural-farm population is probably correct.

This picture indicates potential problems for those areas with a concentration of rural-farm residents. The small proportion of people in the 0 to 9 age groups will tend to decrease future fertility; the large proportion in the 10 to 19 age groups will create problems of education and child dependency, even more than for rural society as a whole; economic productivity will be affected because of the relatively small proportion of the population in the middle-age groups; and the proportionally large number of people in the older age groups will call for increased emphasis on social security and medicare, and will affect attitudes associated with aging.

Not only are there differences in the age and sex composition of the population of New Mexico in terms of urban and rural residence, but variations also occur with changes in time (see figure 24). Between 1960 and 1970, the proportions of the population below 10 years of age and in the ages of 25 to 40 decreased. Conversely, the proportion between the ages of 10 to 25 and in the older age groups tended to increase. These changes, unless offset by future migration, will have a considerable effect on many aspects of life in New Mexico. Problems of child dependency should become less pressing. Increased fertility is a potential. The increase in the labor force, which on the one hand will provide a greater potential economic productive capacity, on

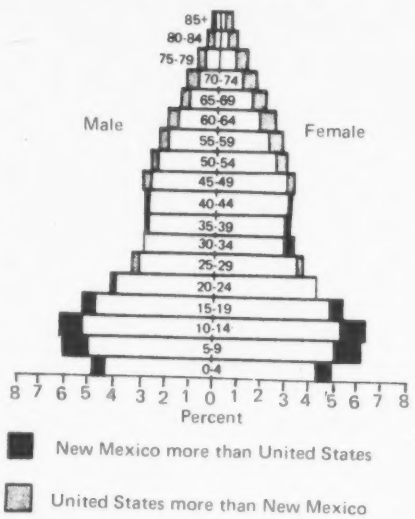
Fig. 24 Age and sex composition of the total population, New Mexico, 1960 and 1970



the other hand may tend to swell the ranks of the unemployed. Problems associated with aging will become more acute.

Differences between the age and sex composition of the population in New Mexico and the United States are shown in figure 25. A glance at that figure shows New Mexico to have a much younger population of both sexes than the United States. In general, it can therefore be anticipated that, compared with the nation as a whole, New Mexico will have to be concerned not only with the immediate problems associated with a young population, but also with future problems growing out of demographic changes which will take place as the population grows older.

Fig. 25 Age and sex composition of the total population, New Mexico and the United States, 1970



VITALITY OF THE POPULATION

The vitality of a population is measured in terms of fertility and mortality. These two demographic processes, along with migration, account for changes in the number of people in a given area and for changes in the distribution and composition of that population.

Fertility[32]

Of the two vital processes in population change, fertility is the more important. Throughout human history, births usually have substantially outnumbered deaths, and fertility has been considered more important than mortality. It is the positive force; it fills the void left by mortality. If the replenishment is insufficient or excessive, social problems arise.

The two indexes of fertility most commonly used by demographers are crude birth rate and fertility ratio.

The crude birth rate is the number of births per 1,000 population in a given year. It has the advantage of being most readily available in intercensual years. Two disadvantages are that it does not take into account differences in the composition of the population, and that it is dependent on data secured through a system of birth registration.

[32]Fertility, as used in this publication, refers to the extent to which the reproductive potential of a population is used. Most demographers now use the term in this sense.

The fertility ratio is the number of children under five years per 1,000 women 15 to 49 years of age (some demographers use 15 to 44 years). Its advantage is that it compensates for underenumeration of births and for infant-death differentials. A disadvantage is that it is dependent on some type of enumeration such as that of the federal census, and so it is readily available only in census years.

Crude Birth Rates. Data on crude birth rates in New Mexico are available only as far back as 1929.[33] That was the year when New Mexico was first included in the birth and death registration area of the United States. The crude birth rates for both New Mexico and the United States are compared in figure 26.

For 16 years after 1929, the rate for New Mexico was much higher than for the United States as a whole. In 1947, however, New Mexico's crude birth rate started to decline and has continued to decline since then, whereas the rate for the United States increased substantially in the 10 years following World War II. The decline which started in New Mexico in the late 1940s did not begin in the United States until the late 1950s, and when it did begin it was not nearly as sharp as it was in New Mexico, except between 1955 and 1960. The result has been that now the crude birth rate differential between the state and the nation as a whole has become much smaller.

The crude birth rate in New Mexico declined from a peak of 38.0 in 1947 (when the rate for the United States was 26.6) to 21.5 in 1970. This compares with a rate of 18.2 for the United States. In other words, New Mexico, which for many years had one of the highest birth rates of any state, now is much closer to the national rate.

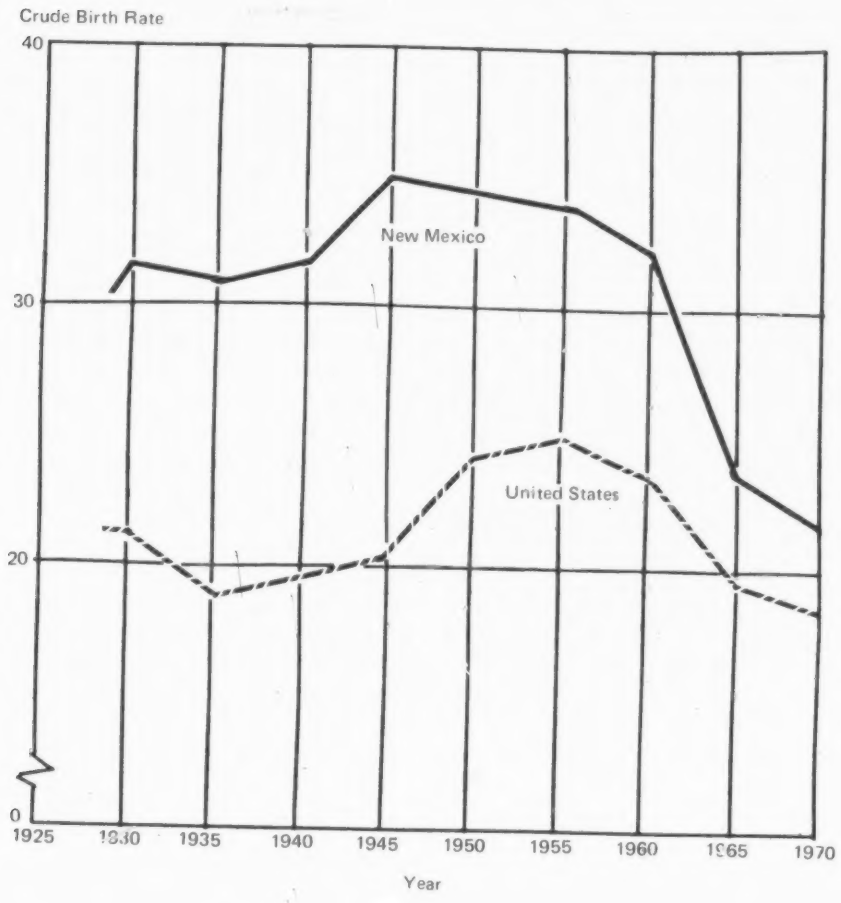
The relatively sharp decline in the crude birth rate in New Mexico between 1960 and 1970 raises the question of probable causes for this phenomenon.

Various factors may affect the reproductive behavior of a population aggregate, including the marriage rate, human motivations as they relate to reproductive behavior, and means of controlling reproduction in terms of those motivations.

While the illegitimacy rate has increased sharply in the United States since World War II, marriage still is the gateway to sanctioned reproduction in our society. A reduction in New Mexico's marriage rate could partially explain the decline in New Mexico's crude birth rate during the past decade. Data published by the Public Health Service of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, however, do not indicate that the marriage rate changed enough during the years in question to account for much of the decline in the birth rate. Actually, except for a rather sharp decline in 1967 and a reversal of that decline in 1968, the marriage rate did not change substantially during the decade.

[33]The data on which figures 26, 27, 28, and 29 are based are from selected vital statistical reports published by the Bureau of the Census of the U.S. Department of Commerce and by the Public Health Service of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Social Welfare.

Fig. 26. Crude birth rates, New Mexico and the United States, 1929 to 1970



Human motivations within the marriage relationship must have been powerful factors affecting the declining birth rate. These can conveniently be grouped under two headings: 1) cultural values and 2) living conditions.

Some of the more important cultural values that could account for the declining birth rate include the declining emphasis placed on children in life goals, the small-family ideal, pleasure patterns, and the weakening of religious proscriptions.

Certainly in an age when the possible dangers of overpopulation are constantly being publicized, it

is likely that less emphasis will be placed on the desirability of children as a part of a well-rounded marriage pattern. While children may still be considered desirable by marriage partners, many now think in terms of fewer children.

Related to the declining emphasis placed on children and the small-family ideal are the pleasure patterns which have become characteristic of contemporary American society. With the increase of leisure, monetary affluence, and opportunity for pleasure-seeking activities has come a desire to achieve pleasures and satisfactions on a personal and not societal basis. Children do not always fit into that philosophy of life.

Much of the change in attitude described above has been made possible by the weakening of religious proscriptions which until relatively recently have been a strong influence on the positive exercise of reproductive behavior. Today many religious groups are in the forefront of the movement for family limitation.

To what extent changes in cultural values have been instrumental in the declining birth rate in New Mexico is difficult to determine. However, there is no reason to believe that they should operate with less vigor in the state than in other parts of the United States. Perhaps in the past, they have been less powerful forces in New Mexico and only recently have taken hold.

Living conditions, too, have a powerful influence on birth rates. Urbanization has always tended to lower birth rates. The rising standard of living with its ever-increasing wants and desires certainly also tends to reduce the birth rate. It would seem that these two aspects of living would have an effect on New Mexico's birth rate as it has had for the nation as a whole.

Possible changes in human motivations related to changing cultural values and changing living conditions could be factors in decreasing reproduction in New Mexico. However, without means for controlling reproduction in terms of changing motivations, it is questionable whether a sharp decline in reproductive behavior would have taken place. Such means are now at hand. Birth control knowledge has increased rapidly, and due to many factors the use of such knowledge has become socially acceptable. While birth control techniques in themselves do not explain limitations of family size, they are the means whereby such limitation may be placed. To the extent that birth control knowledge has become available and its use acceptable, it has been a major factor in the decline of the birth rate in New Mexico.

Fertility Ratios. New Mexico's fertility ratio is high compared with those of most other western states and the United States as a whole. In 1970, it was 392 while for the United States it was 352. Among the states in the Western Region, only Utah had a higher ratio and Idaho had the same ratio.

High as New Mexico's 1970 fertility ratio was, it represented a sharp drop (36.6 percent) from 1960, when the ratio was 618. The much smaller ratio in 1970 was typical of other western states and

of the whole nation. Whatever the reasons were for the decline in the other states, in New Mexico it undoubtedly was a reflection of the sharp decline in the crude birth rate in the latter part of the 1960s.

Table 22 shows the fertility ratios in New Mexico's counties in 1970. Counties with the higher ratios likely have populations faced with greater problems of child dependency than do counties with low fertility ratios. At any rate, the fertility ratio in the state as a whole is still at a high level. The crude birth rate may have declined, but the potential for future population growth is seen in the relatively large number of children under five years of age per 1,000 women of 15 to 49 years.

Mortality

New Mexico has shown great progress in reducing the two indexes of mortality, the crude death rate and the infant mortality rate.

Crude Death Rates. When New Mexico was first included in the United States death registration area in 1929, it had a crude death rate of 15.3, the highest of any state except Arizona with a rate of 15.4. These rates were far above the rate of 11.9 for the United States as a whole.

Since 1929, the crude death rate in New Mexico has gone down more rapidly than the national rate (see figure 27). In 1940, for the first time, it dropped below the national

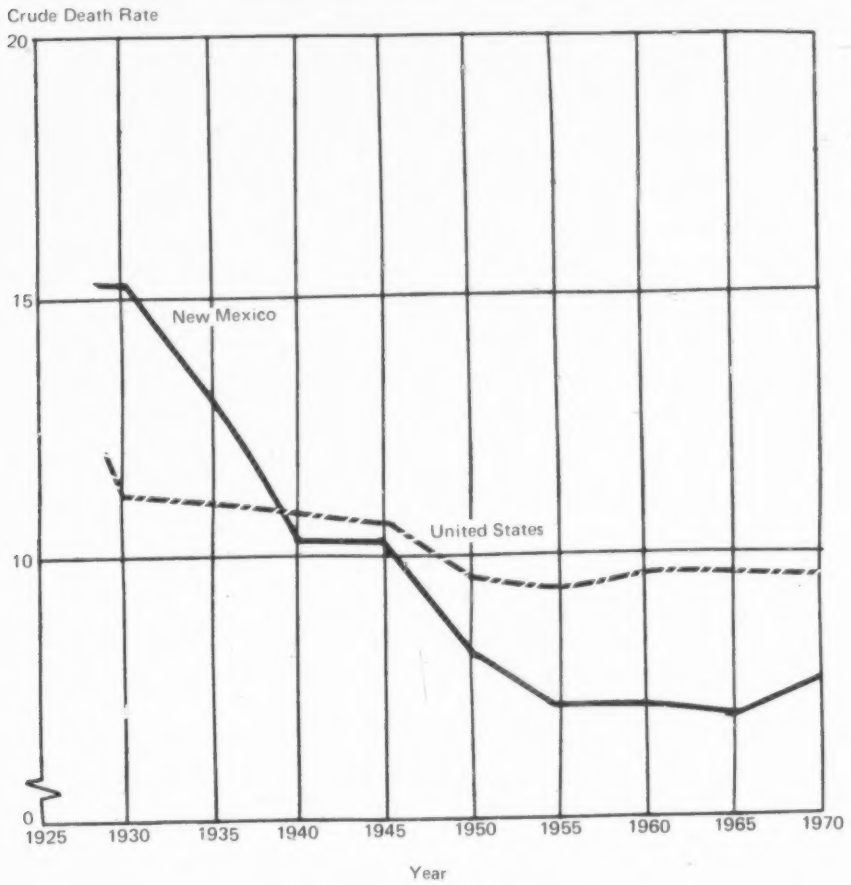
Table 22. Fertility ratio, by county, New Mexico, 1970*

County	Fertility Ratio**	County	Fertility Ratio**
The State	392	Luna	423
		McKinley	536
Bernalillo	352	Mora	476
Catron	431	Otero	420
Chaves	375	Quay	385
Colfax	418	Rio Arriba	471
Curry	418	Roosevelt	301
De Baca	297	Sandoval	502
Dona Ana	391	San Juan	454
Eddy	355	San Miguel	360
Grant	419	Santa Fe	391
Guadalupe	464	Sierra	407
Harding	312	Socorro	433
Hidalgo	507	Taos	435
Lea	360	Torrance	365
Lincoln	352	Union	368
Los Alamos	328	Valencia	471

*Final Report PC(1)-B33, *General Population Characteristics: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 31.

**Children under 5 years per 1000 women 15 to 49 years.

Fig. 27. Crude death rates, New Mexico and the United States, 1929 to 1970



rate, and since then has consistently been declining more rapidly so that the differential has been increasing. Provisional data for 1970 indicate that New Mexico's crude death rate had dropped to 7.3 compared with 9.4 for the United States.

Infant Mortality Rates. The sharp decline in New Mexico's crude death rate since it became a part of the United States birth and death registration area is to a large extent directly related to the decline in infant mortality which has taken place in the state since 1929.[34]

[34]The infant mortality rate is the number of deaths of children under one year of age per 1,000 live births occurring in the same year.

The reduction of infant mortality in any population aggregate with a high birth rate will have an appreciable effect on the crude death rate. Since New Mexico has had a comparatively high birth rate in the past, it is to be expected that the crude death rate would decline with progress in eliminating the causes of infant mortality.

In 1929, New Mexico had the dubious distinction of having the highest infant mortality rate of any state in the Union. In that year, the rate was 145.5. With the exception of Arizona, no other state had a rate above 100. The rate was 67.6 for the states then included in the birth registration area.

The tremendous progress made in the reduction of infant mortality in New Mexico since 1929 is seen in figure 28. The rate differential between New Mexico and the United States has steadily decreased, so that in 1970 the rate was only 21.1 for New Mexico compared to 19.8 for the United States.

The decline in the infant mortality rate over the past 40 years or so follows a trend characteristic not only of the United States but also many other parts of the world. That the decline was so great in New Mexico can be attributed in part to the fact that the state had so much farther to go in bringing the rate down to present levels.

Generally speaking, infant mortality has been greatly reduced throughout the years by the removal or mitigation of the causes of death peculiar to infancy. The progress has been the result of numerous factors, of which some of the more important are better sanitation; improvement in medical science and practice; a rising standard of living; decreasing size of family; new developments in the feeding of infants; and increasing prenatal care.

These factors have no doubt operated in New Mexico. They probably would not have been as important, however, had it not been for improved means of transportation and communication during the past half century. When New Mexico first became a part of the death registration area, many sparsely populated areas in the state were without the knowledge and facilities necessary for operation of the factors listed above. With the rapid improvements in transportation and communication characteristic of recent decades, it was possible to bring about a reduction in the infant mortality rate. This in turn brought about a reduction in the crude death rate.

Natural Increase. The fertility and mortality of a population taken together provide an index of the vitality of its population. The index that is commonly used is the natural increase, which is the surplus of births over deaths expressed in terms of a rate.[35]

The rate of natural increase in New Mexico has always been much higher than that for the United States (see figure 29). However, the trend in the state has for the most part followed that in the nation except that the decline in New Mexico between 1960 and 1970 was much

[35]The rate of natural increase is the surplus of births over deaths per 1,000 population in a given year.

Fig. 28. Infant mortality rates, New Mexico and the United States, 1929 to 1970

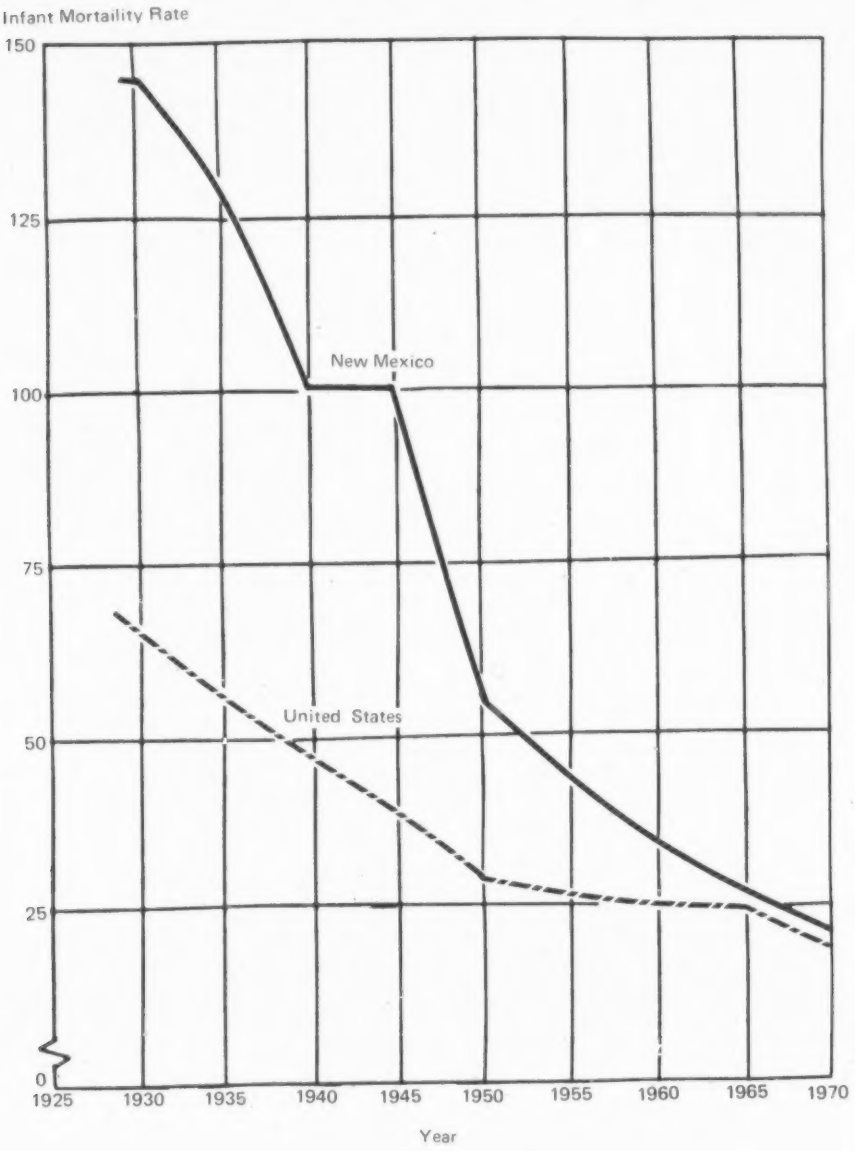
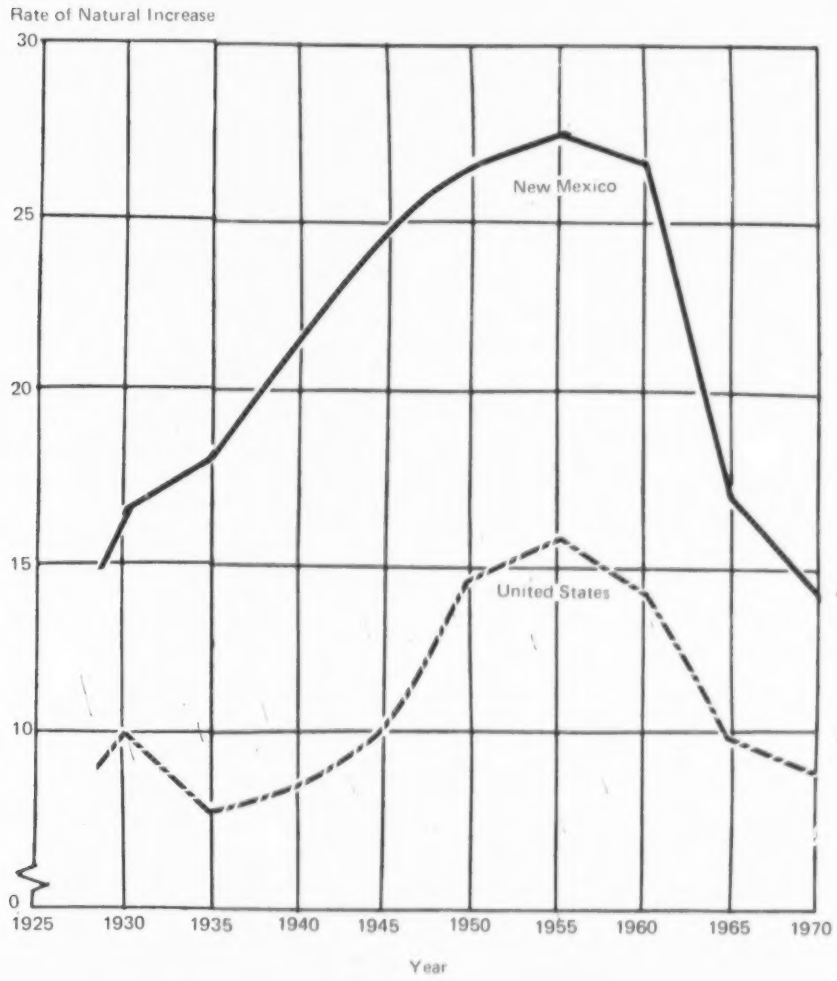


Fig. 29. Rates of natural increase, New Mexico and the United States, 1929 to 1970



sharper than that for the United States. The differential between the two therefore has decreased considerably. This decrease follows from the sharp decline in New Mexico's crude birth rate in the 1960s.

Consequences of Changes in New Mexico's Vital Processes. The relatively small rate of increase in New Mexico's population between 1960 and 1970 was primarily due to the large net out-migration from the

state during the decade. The natural increase, however, was smaller in the 1960s than in the 1950s. Should the natural increase decline even further in the 1970s, it follows that New Mexico will not show any substantial increase in its population unless there is a large net in-migration.

MOBILITY OF THE POPULATION

Population mobility has increasingly become an accepted fact in the American culture pattern. Historically, major population shifts like the westward movement, the movement from the South to the North, and the cityward movement have had a tremendous impact on American life. Also important, however, has been the movement of people from state to state or within a state.

The fact that New Mexico's population grew so little between 1960 and 1970 is due primarily to the large net out-migration during the decade. This net out-migration was nearly 130,000, in contrast to a net in-migration of 52,000 in the 1950s.[36] These, however, are net figures. They do not show the number of migrants into or out of the state.

Unfortunately, estimates are not available on the number of migrants into New Mexico or away from the state in the 1960s and the 1950s. Some idea of the population mobility for those two decades can nevertheless be obtained from federal census data dealing with the place of residence five years prior to the census for the population five years old and over at the time of the census. These data cover the last five years of each decade only, but they still lead to conjecture as to migration into New Mexico for each decade.

Data on the place of residence published in the 1970 federal census show that in the 1960s (at least in the last half of the decade) the people of New Mexico were even more mobile than the nation's entire population (table 23). The percentage of the state's population five years old and over in 1970 who lived in a different house than the one in which they had been living in 1965 is larger than the percentage for the United States. New Mexico also had a larger percentage living in a different county and a much larger percentage living in a different state–14.2 percent compared to 8.6 percent for the United States. In other words, one out of every seven people five years old or over in 1970 in New Mexico was living in another state in 1965.

While New Mexico's population was extremely mobile in the last half of the 1960s, the population mobility was even greater in the last half of the 1950s. The percentage of the state's people five years old and over in 1960 who had been living in a different house in New Mexico in 1955 was much higher (55.6 percent) than the com-

[36]Current Population Reports, *Preliminary Estimates of the Components of Population Change, by State, 1950-1960*, Series P-25, No. 227, Bureau of the Census, April 26, 1962, p. 6.

Table 23. Percentage distribution of population five years old and over in 1970, by residence in 1965, United States and New Mexico*

Residence in 1965	United States	New Mexico** Total	Urban	Rural
Population 5 years old and over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Same house	53.0	49.7	45.8	59.0
Different house in the U. S.	40.4	43.0	46.7	34.5
Same county	23.3	22.0	23.2	19.3
Different county	17.1	21.0	23.4	15.2
Same state	8.4	6.8	6.9	6.5
Different	8.6	14.2	16.6	8.7
Abroad in 1965	1.4	1.4	1.7	0.9
Residence not reported, moved 1965	5.2	5.8	5.9	5.6

*The percentages are based on numerical data from PC(2)-2E, *Migration between State Economic Areas*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 1.

*The percentages are based on numerical data from Final Report PC(1)-033, *General Social and Economic Characteristics: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 107-108.

parable percentage in 1970. The percentage living in a different county (29.7 percent) was also higher, as was the percentage living in a different state (22.4 percent). This higher mobility in the 1950s no doubt reflects the favorable economic situation in New Mexico during that decade.

New Mexico's urban population between 1965 and 1970 was considerably more mobile than its rural population, especially with respect to change of residence from another state. The proportion of the urban population who had moved into New Mexico from another state (16.6 percent) was nearly twice as large as that for the rural population. The proportion of New Mexico's rural population in this group was almost the same as that for the total population of the United States.

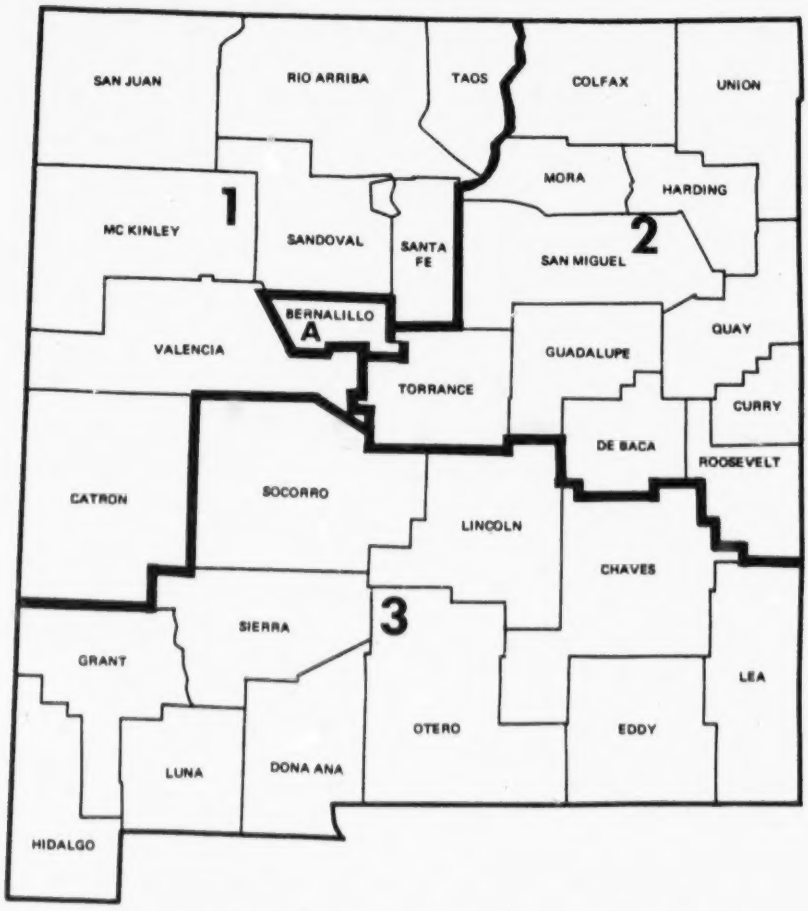
Population mobility in terms of residence was not uniform for all areas of New Mexico between 1965 and 1970, as comparisons between state economic areas show.[37] These economic areas are shown in figure 30.

Table 24 shows the residence in 1965 for the population five years old and over in 1970 for New Mexico's economic areas.

The population of Area 1 was considerably less mobile than the population of the other three areas, especially Areas 3 and A. Variations are particularly noticeable in change

[37]State economic areas have been delineated by the Bureau of the Census. They consist of single counties or groups of counties having similar social and economic characteristics. See PC(2)-2E, *Migration between State Economic Areas*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, Appendix A, p. 2.

Fig. 30. Economic areas in New Mexico*



*Prepared from data in PC(2)-2E, *Migration between State Economic Areas*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, Appendix A, p. 2.

of residence from other states to New Mexico. In Area A, one out of every six persons five years old and over in 1970 was living in another state than New Mexico in 1965.

According to 1970 federal census reports, more than 130,000 people five years old and over were residents of other states in 1965. In other words, during the five-year period, there were that many in-migrants to New Mexico. No data show how many people in New Mexico in 1970 had come into the

Table 24. Percentage distribution of population five years old and over in 1970, by residence in 1965, New Mexico's Economic Areas*

Residence in 1965	Total	Economic Area 1	2	3	A
Population 5 years old and over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Same house	49.7	57.1	50.1	46.2	46.9
Different house in the U. S.	43.0	37.4	40.0	45.5	46.4
Same county	22.0	19.9	18.6	22.9	24.3
Different county	21.0	17.5	21.4	22.6	22.1
Same state	6.8	7.2	7.7	7.5	5.3
Different state	14.2	10.2	13.7	15.2	16.8
Abroad in 1965	1.4	0.5	1.8	1.8	1.7
Moved, 1965 residence not reported	5.8	5.0	8.1	6.5	5.0

*The percentages are based on numerical data from PC(2)-2F, *Migration between State Economic Areas*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 7.

state between 1960 and 1965. If that were known, it would be possible to estimate the total number of out-migrants from New Mexico during the 1970s, since the net out-migration was almost 130,000.

If no one had moved into New Mexico between 1960 and 1965, the total number of people leaving the state between 1960 and 1970 would have been nearly 250,000. Truly, population mobility has been a major factor in population change in New Mexico.

NATIVITY OF THE POPULATION

New Mexico's population is preponderantly native born, which means born in the United States. Only 22,510 of the state's 1,016,000 inhabitants in 1970 were foreign born. Nearly half of these were born in Mexico. However, in spite of New Mexico's proximity to Mexico and the preponderance of Mexicans in its foreign-born population, the percentage of foreign born in the state (2.2 percent) was less than half that for the United States.

The great majority of native-born people living in New Mexico in 1970 were of native parentage. The proportion of the native born in terms of parentage and the proportion of foreign born were quite similar for both the urban and rural components of the state's population (see table 25).

Of the native-born population living in New Mexico in 1970, 53.6 percent were born in the state while 40.4 percent were born in some other state (table 26). For the United States, 68.0 percent of the native-born population residing in the country in 1970 were born in

Table 25. Percentage distribution of New Mexico's population, by nativity, 1970*

Nativity	Total	Urban	Rural
Total Population	100.0	100.0	100.0
Native born	97.8	97.9	97.5
Native parentage	91.3	91.0	91.8
Foreign or mixed parentage	6.5	6.8	5.7
Foreign born	2.2	2.1	2.5

*The percentages are based on numerical data from Final Report PC(1)-C33, *General Social and Economic Characteristics: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, pp. 105 and 126.

Table 26. Percentage distribution of New Mexico's native-born population, by place of birth, 1970*

Place of Birth	Total	Urban	Rural
Total Native Population	100.0	100.0	100.0
New Mexico	53.6	48.2	36.0
Different state	40.4	45.7	27.9
Abroad, at sea, etc.	1.0	1.2	0.8
State of birth not reported	5.0	4.9	5.3

*Based on numerical data published in PC(1)-C33, *General and Economic Characteristics: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 127.

the state of residence, and only 26.3 percent were born in another state. This indicates that a comparatively large proportion of New Mexicans are relative newcomers to the state.

The percentage of the native population born in New Mexico varies considerably between the counties (see table 27). The percentages range from 29.2 percent in Lea County to 89.7 percent in Mora County.

In general, counties with a high percentage of people born in New Mexico are those with a large proportion of Indians and those in the northern part of the state with a large proportion of Spanish-Americans, although there are exceptions to this generality (see figure 31).

In San Juan County, where over one-third of the population in 1970 were Indians, the percentage of native-born inhabitants was almost exactly the same as the 53.6 percent of all of New Mexico. This relatively small percentage of people in the county who were born in New Mexico in spite of a large proportion of Indians in the total population of

Table 27. Place of birth of native-born population, by county, New Mexico, 1970*

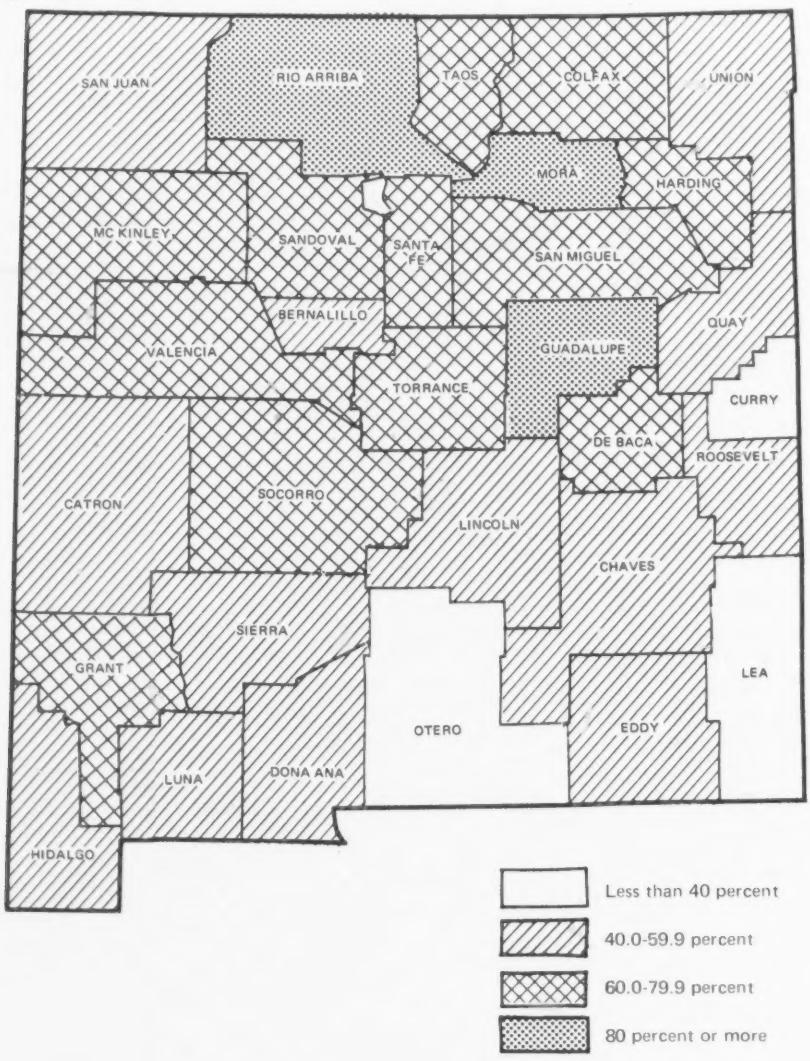
County	Place of Birth			
	Total	New Mexico	Different state	Other**
The State	100.0	53.6	40.4	6.0
Bernalillo	100.0	49.1	45.5	5.4
Catron	100.0	57.4	32.5	10.1
Chaves	100.0	46.5	45.7	7.8
Colfax	100.0	69.0	27.4	3.6
Curry	100.0	36.1	56.1	7.8
De Baca	100.0	63.9	32.3	3.8
Dona Ana	100.0	49.6	42.4	8.0
Eddy	100.0	45.6	48.8	5.6
Grant	100.0	63.9	30.6	5.5
Guadalupe	100.0	86.8	10.7	2.5
Harding	100.0	76.0	24.0	0
Hidalgo	100.0	57.8	34.3	7.9
Lea	100.0	29.2	65.5	5.3
Lincoln	100.0	56.3	34.9	8.8
Los Alamos	100.0	33.6	61.2	5.2
Luna	100.0	52.4	39.1	8.5
McKinley	100.0	71.6	23.0	5.4
Mora	100.0	89.7	5.2	5.1
Otero	100.0	36.4	55.3	8.3
Quay	100.0	56.2	41.5	2.3
Rio Arriba	100.0	81.9	10.2	7.9
Roosevelt	100.0	49.6	47.3	3.1
Sandoval	100.0	77.9	17.5	4.6
San Juan	100.0	53.2	41.0	5.8
San Miguel	100.0	76.4	14.5	9.1
Santa Fe	100.0	67.3	25.7	7.0
Sierra	100.0	44.3	51.0	4.7
Socorro	100.0	70.1	22.7	7.2
Taos	100.0	78.2	15.6	6.2
Torrance	100.0	68.1	25.6	6.3
Union	100.0	54.0	40.0	6.0
Valencia	100.0	69.7	26.3	4.0

*PC(1)-C33, *General Social and Economic Characteristics: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, pp. 98 and 200-202.

**Born abroad, at sea, or state of birth not reported.

the county can no doubt be attributed to an influx of people from other states attracted by economic opportunities related to extensive oil and gas drilling operations in the 1950s. In 1960, of the population five years old and over, 33.5 percent had been residents of another state

Fig. 31. Percentage of native-born population born in the state, by county, 1970



in 1955 compared with 22.4 percent for New Mexico as a whole. Even in 1970, the percentage residing in another state in 1965 (16.9 percent) was higher than the percentage for the entire state (14.2 percent).

Another exception to the generality is in the northern part of the

state. Colfax and Harding counties, while not having extremely large proportions of Spanish-Americans and practically no Indians, still have a higher proportion of native-born residents than the state average. This is probably due to a comparatively small migration into the counties from outside the state in both the 1950s and the 1960s.

A third exception is Grant County, where the percentage of the native-born inhabitants five years old and over in 1970 but residing in another state in 1965 was lower than for the whole state but not extremely so. In 1960, however, the percentage in this category in Grant County was only slightly over half that for New Mexico.

INCOME

The 1970 federal census reports income data for families as of 1969. Data are presented here for median income; percentage of families with incomes below the poverty level; and percentage of families with incomes of $15,000 or more. On the basis of all three sets of data, it is obvious that New Mexicans as a group do not occupy an enviable position in terms of income.

Median Income. The median family income in New Mexico in 1969 was $7,849, compared with a national average of $9,590. New Mexico ranked thirty-eighth among the 50 states. It was the lowest of any of the eight states in the Mountain Division, which had an average median family income of $9,072. Furthermore, comparisons with 1959 do not indicate progress in New Mexico when judged by the national average. In New Mexico, the median family income rose from $5,371 in 1959 to $7,849 in 1969, an increase of 46.1 percent; but during the same period it increased from $5,660 to $9,590 in all 50 states combined, an increase of 69.4 percent. Stated another way, in 1959 the median family income in New Mexico was only $289 below that for the entire country, whereas in 1969 it was $1,741 below the national average.

Variations appear in the state in terms of urban and rural residence and for racial and ethnic groups. For urban families, the median family income in 1969 was 8.2 percent above the state average whereas for rural families it was 21.2 percent below the state average. For families of Spanish language or Spanish surname, the median income in 1969 was $6,057, or 22.8 percent below the state average. For Negro families, it was $5,204, or 33.7 percent below

[38] The term "poverty level" is based on a definition originated by the Social Security Administration in 1964 and subsequently modified by a Federal Interagency Committee. The index used provides a range of poverty income cutoffs adjusted to such factors as family size, sex of the family head, number of children under 18 years old, and farm and nonfarm residence. The poverty income cutoffs are revised annually to allow for changes in the cost of living as reflected in the Consumer Price Index. See Final Report PC(1)-C33, *General Population Characteristics: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, Appendix B, p. 29.

the state average. No census data have as yet been published on income for Indian families as a separate racial category, but the 1970 census reports a median family income of only $4,637 for all nonwhite races. Since nonwhite races other than Indians and Negroes constitute less than one percent of the total population in New Mexico, it can be assumed that the much smaller median family income reported for all nonwhite races than for Negroes is due to a lower median income for the Indian families.

Families Below the Poverty Level. With respect to the percentage of families below the poverty level, the situation in New Mexico is equally bleak. The state had 18.5 percent of its families below the poverty level compared with 10.7 percent for the nation as a whole. The Mountain Division percentage was 10.9, almost the same as the national average and much lower than the proportion for New Mexico, which had by far the highest percentage below the poverty level of any of the mountain states.

A smaller percentage of families were below the poverty level among the urban population (14.5 percent) than for the state as a whole. It follows that the percentage is higher for the rural families (28.6 percent), nearly twice as high as for urban families.

Unfortunately, while the percentage of families below the poverty level is extremely high among the rural families of New Mexico, the situation is equally bad or worse for families of Spanish surname or Spanish language and for Negro families. Compared with the 18.5 percent for the state as a whole, 29.4 percent of the families of Spanish language or Spanish surname were below the poverty level in 1969, and 34.4 percent of the Negro families were in that category. While census data are not available on the percentage of Indian families below the poverty level, if there is validity to the assumption that the median family income is lower for Indians than for Negroes in New Mexico, then it can also be assumed that the percentage of Indian families who fall below the poverty level is larger than the percentage of Negro families. In that event, the percentage is indeed extremely high.

Families with Incomes of $15,000 or More. New Mexico does not fare much better with respect to the percentage of families with $15,000 or more income (14.8 percent). The national percentage was 20.6 percent. In the Mountain Division, with 17.6 percent, only two states—Montana and North Dakota—had smaller percentages than New Mexico.

Within the state, wide variations appear. In the urban population, 17.1 percent of the families were in this higher income group, but in the rural population, only 9 percent of the families were.

The proportion of Spanish-American and Negro families with $15,000 or more income in 1969 was indeed very low when compared to the state average. Only 6.1 percent of the Spanish-American families and only 4.2 percent of the

Negro families had incomes $15,000 or more. No comparable data are at present available for New Mexico's Indian population.

Family Incomes in Counties. Table 28 gives data for the counties of New Mexico on the three income categories.

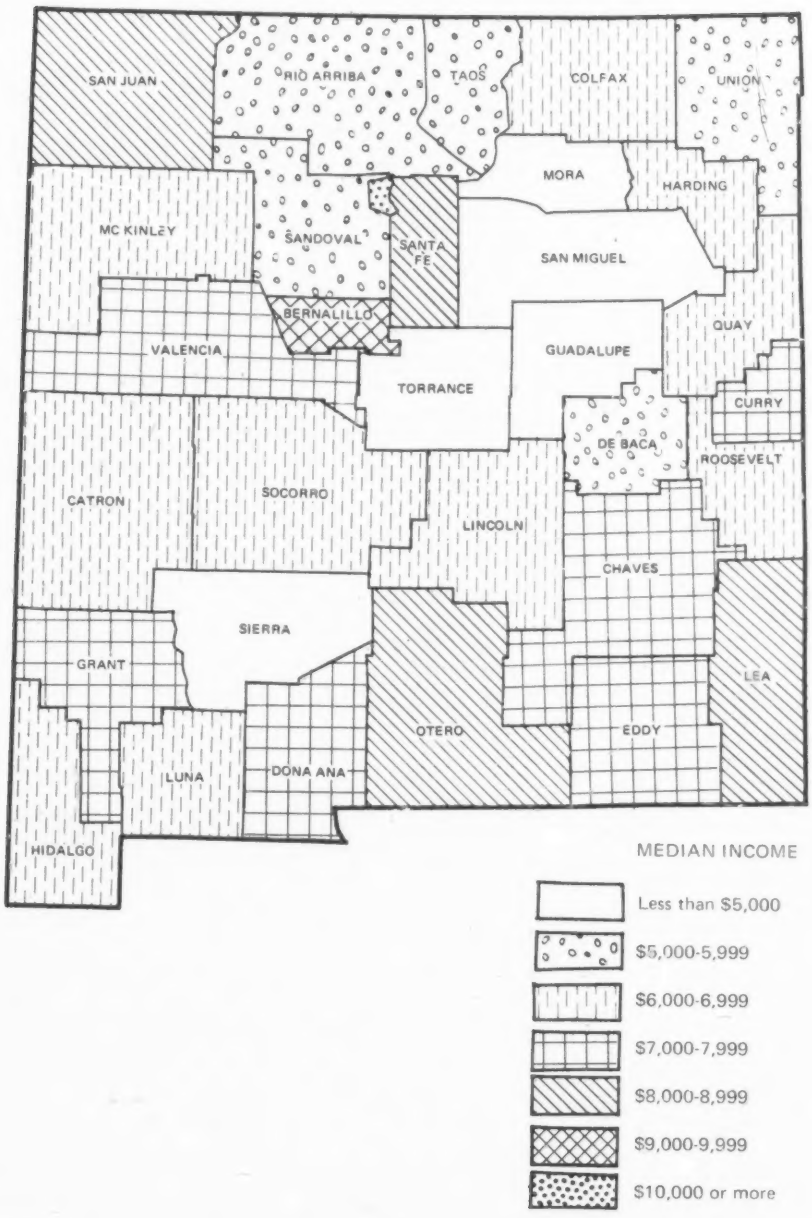
Table 28. Family income status, by county, New Mexico, 1969*

County	Median Income (dollars)	Percent of Families with Income of-- Less than poverty level**	$15,000 or more
The State	7,849	18.5	14.8
Bernalillo	9,031	13.0	19.9
Catron	6,630	14.3	17.2
Chaves	7,212	20.4	14.0
Colfax	6,596	20.1	9.6
Curry	7,162	15.1	11.8
De Baca	5,663	24.5	4.7
Dona Ana	7,395	20.5	13.7
Eddy	7,870	17.8	11.2
Grant	7,898	11.9	10.4
Guadalupe	4,885	37.9	8.2
Harding	6,500	28.3	10.0
Hidalgo	6,568	21.7	9.4
Lea	8,703	12.5	12.5
Lincoln	6,522	20.7	12.8
Los Alamos	15,273	2.1	51.1
Luna	6,472	20.5	10.1
McKinley	6,783	33.7	12.5
Mora	3,100	57.3	2.1
Otero	8,117	12.3	14.0
Quay	6,794	19.3	9.1
Rio Arriba	5,544	34.3	5.6
Roosevelt	6,273	21.5	10.9
Sandoval	5,479	37.5	9.1
San Juan	8,150	21.7	12.2
San Miguel	4,595	39.2	7.1
Santa Fe	8,018	18.2	16.6
Sierra	4,833	23.9	6.1
Socorro	6,360	29.5	6.2
Taos	5,308	35.8	7.1
Torrance	4,920	32.6	7.3
Union	5,295	26.2	9.7
Valencia	7,610	18.5	8.2

*Final Report PC(1)-C33, *General Social and Economic Characteristics: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 99.

**The term "poverty level" is based on a definition originated by the Social Security Administration in 1964 and subsequently modified by a Federal Interagency Committee.

Fig. 32. Median family income, by county, New Mexico, 1969



There is a wide variation in the median family income between New Mexico's counties. Most noticeable is the extremely high median income in Los Alamos County—the only county above $10,000. This can be attributed to the large number of highly paid personnel at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory.

Except for Los Alamos County, no county in New Mexico has a median family income as high as the national average ($9,590). Among the 31 counties, it ranges from a high of $9,031 in Bernalillo County to a low of $3,100 in Mora County. The distribution of the median family income for the state is shown graphically in figure 32.

Great variations also appear between New Mexico's counties in the percentage of families with incomes below the poverty level (see table 28). Here the situation is reversed for Los Alamos and Mora counties, with only 2.1 percent of the families in Los Alamos County in this category while Mora County has 57.3 percent. The highest percentages appear in counties in the north-central part of the state and in McKinley County.

With respect to families with incomes of $15,000 or more, there is again a wide difference between Los Alamos and Mora counties. Here, the percentage for Mora County is the same as the percentage of families in Los Alamos County with family incomes below the poverty level. Three counties—other than Los Alamos—with a percentage above the state average of families with incomes of $15,000 or more are Bernalillo, Catron, and Santa Fe.

Importance of Income Data. The data in table 28 clearly show that New Mexico ranks low in all three categories. Granted that monetary income is not the only determinant of the quality of life and cost of living may vary in different localities, it nevertheless appears that, in many New Mexico counties, the economic status of the inhabitants is such that a reasonable standard of living and a good quality of life do not exist. The same can be said with even greater validity for the people of Spanish language or Spanish surnames and the Indian and Negro segments of the population.

MARITAL STATUS

The Bureau of the Census reports data on the marital status of the population 14 years old and over. All data presented in this section relate to the population in this age category.

The proportion of New Mexico's population that were married increased steadily from 1940 to 1960, while the proportion of single people in the same age category declined correspondingly (see table 29). However, this trend reversed itself considerably between 1960 and 1970 for both males and females, and the proportion of married females actually fell below the proportion in 1940.

Table 29. Percentage distribution of population 14 years old and over, by marital status, New Mexico, 1940 to 1970*

Marital Status	1970	1960	1950	1940
Males	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	30.0	25.9	28.3	34.6
Married	63.8	68.0	65.1	59.7
Separated	0.9	1.0	1.1	**
Widowed	2.4	2.7	3.6	4.4
Divorced	2.9	2.4	2.0	1.3
Females	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	23.4	18.7	20.2	25.9
Married	61.1	68.2	66.9	62.9
Separated	1.5	1.4	1.6	**
Widowed	9.4	8.6	[illegible]	9.4
Divorced	4.6	3.1	2.4	1.7

*The percentages for 1970 are based on numerical data reported in Final Rep. PC(1)-B33, *General Population Characteristics: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. [illegible]. The percentages for 1940-1960 are from Final Report PC(1)-B33, *General Population Characteristics: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population, 1960, p. 25.

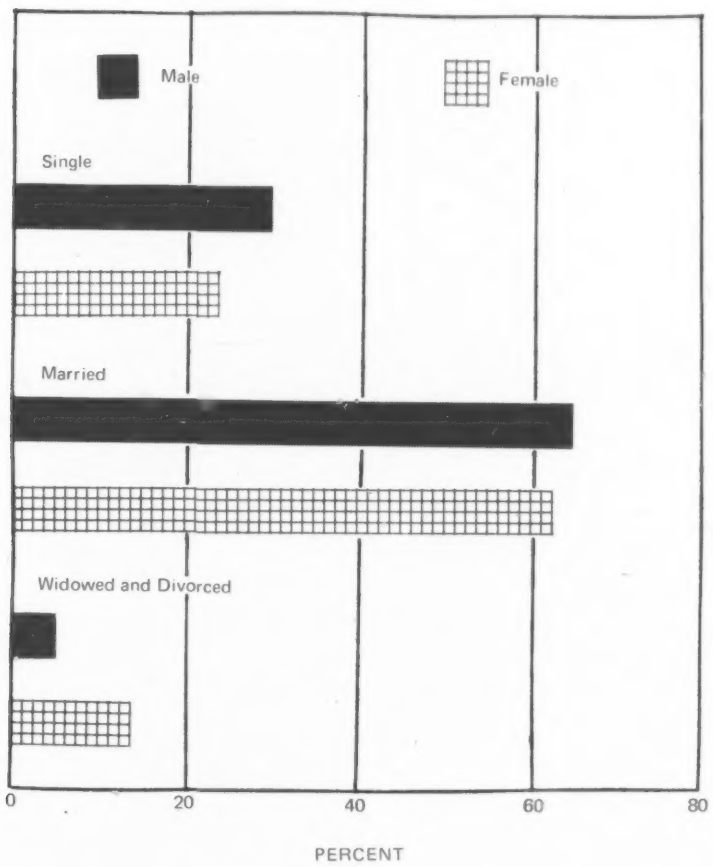
The percentage of widowed males in New Mexico steadily declined between 1940 and 1970 while the percentage of widows remained much the same. The percentage of divorced persons increased substantially for both sexes over the 30-year period, but the increase was somewhat greater for females than for males.

New Mexico males tend to remain single in spite of the fact that the sex ratio (the number of males per 100 females) has been steadily declining and is now below 100 for people of marriageable age. In 1970, 30 percent of the males were single, compared with only 23.4 percent of the females. The proportion of the population married was larger for males than for females but only slightly so. The differences in marital status which account for the much smaller percentage of married females are found in the widowed and divorced categories, particularly in terms of widowed status where the percentage of females was nearly four times as great as for males. Differences for males and females are shown graphically in figure 33 for single and married persons and for the widowed and divorced as a group.

On the whole, the marital status of the population of New Mexico does not differ too greatly from that of the population of all 50 states (table 30). Most noticeable is the smaller percentage of widowed females in New Mexico.

Between the urban and rural seg-

Fig. 33 Marital status of population 14 years old and over, New Mexico, 1970



ments of New Mexico's population there is also considerable similarity in marital status, except that the percentage of divorced females is considerably higher for the urban population.

EDUCATIONAL STATUS

New Mexico has been making educational progress (see table 31). From 1960 to 1970 the percentage of persons 25 years old and over who had completed no school year declined, as did the percentages for

Table 30. Percentage distribution of population 14 years of age and over, by marital status, United States and New Mexico, 1970

Marital Status	United States*	New Mexico		
		Total	Urban	Rural
Males	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	28.6	30.0	29.4	31.4
Married	64.2	63.8	64.6	62.1
Separated	1.5	0.9	0.8	1.0
Widowed	2.9	2.4	2.2	3.1
Divorced	2.7	2.9	3.1	2.5
Females	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	22.4	23.4	22.6	25.4
Married	59.0	61.1	60.9	61.5
Separated	2.3	1.5	1.6	1.4
Widowed	12.4	9.4	9.6	8.9
Divorced	3.9	4.6	5.3	2.8

*Final Report PC(1)-B1, *General Population Characteristics: United States Summary*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 278.

**The percentages are based on numerical data reported in Final Report PC(1)-B33, *General Population Characteristics: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 43.

Table 31. Percentage of persons 25 years old and over, by years of school completed, New Mexico, 1970 and 1960*

Years of School Completed	1970			1960		
	Total	White	Non-white	Total	White	Non-white
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No school year completed	3.3	2.1	19.2	4.4	2.9	27.0
Elementary: 1 to 4 years	5.6	5.3	9.2	7.7	7.4	12.2
5 to 6 years	5.6	5.3	9.9	7.0	6.7	10.1
7 years	3.7	3.6	4.9	5.1	5.0	6.0
8 years	9.4	9.5	8.2	12.2	12.4	9.4
High School: 1 to 3 years	17.1	17.0	18.5	18.1	18.3	16.1
4 years	30.0	30.7	20.9	24.8	25.6	13.3
College: 1 to 3 years	12.5	13.1	5.5	10.8	11.3	3.4
4 years	6.8	7.2	1.8	5.9	6.2	1.6
5 years or more	6.0	6.3	1.7	3.9	4.1	0.7

*Final Report PC(1)-C33, *General Social and Economic Characteristics: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 134.

all the educational steps through three years of high school. Beginning with four years in high school, the percentages increased in all educational steps. The increases between 1960 and 1970 are shown graphically in figure 34.

The improvement in the educational status of New Mexico's population applies to both whites and nonwhites. For the nonwhites, the most noticeable improvement was in the four high school years.

Another measure of educational attainment is the median school year completed. Here, too, New Mexico has shown progress. Between 1960 and 1970 it increased as follows: for

Fig. 34. Years of school completed by persons 25 years old and over, New Mexico, 1970 and 1960

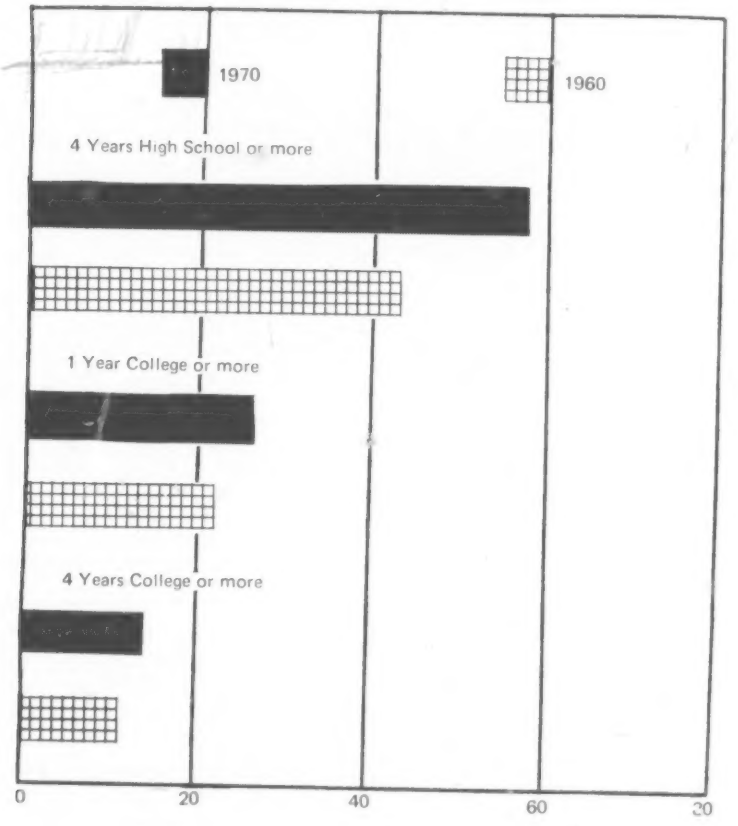


Table 32. Median school year completed by persons 25 years old and over, by county, New Mexico, 1970*

County	Median Years Completed	County	Median Years Completed
The State	12.2	Luna	10.6
		McKinley	10.1
Bernalillo	12.5	Mora	8.2
Catron	10.9	Otero	12.4
Chaves	12.1	Quay	11.3
Colfax	11.5	Rio Arriba	9.7
Curry	12.2	Roosevelt	12.1
De Baca	10.1	Sandoval	10.3
Dona Ana	12.2	San Juan	12.0
Eddy	11.8	San Miguel	9.1
Grant	11.7	Santa Fe	12.3
Guadalupe	9.5	Sierra	9.9
Harding	9.8	Socorro	11.0
Hidalgo	10.5	Taos	10.4
Lea	12.0	Torrance	10.0
Lincoln	12.0	Union	12.0
Los Alamos	14.2	Valencia	11.3

*Final Report PC(1)-C33, *General Social and Economic Characteristics: New Mexico*, U.S. Census of Population: 1970, p. 98.

the total population, from 11.2 to 12.2; for whites, from 11.5 to 12.2; and for nonwhites from 7.1 to 8.8. However, in spite of the substantial increase for nonwhites, the median school year completed in that group remains far below that for whites. Obviously, much remains to be done to raise the educational status of nonwhites in New Mexico.

The median years of school completed in New Mexico's counties are shown in table 32.

Considerable variation exists between the counties in terms of the median years of school completed. Only four counties–Bernalillo, Los Alamos, Otero, and Santa Fe–have medians above that for the state. The highest by far is in Los Alamos County, which is to be expected in light of the large number of trained personnel at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory.

Two counties–Curry and Dona Ana–have the same median as the state as a whole, which means that of New Mexico's 32 counties, 26 have median school years completed below the state average. The fact that so many counties fall below the state average can be attributed to the above-state average in Bernalillo County. While the median in that county is not extremely high, the large population in the county brings the median for the state above those for most counties.

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